WASHINGTON REPORT
(AFB - bi-monthly)
1972


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FEBRUARY, 1972

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND

IRVIN P. SCHLOSS — EDITOR

washington report

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

The Second Session of the 92nd Congress convened on January 18 for a session during which all major action will be viewed in the light of implications for the Presidential election campaign. With recesses for the Democratic and Republican party national conventions in July and August and adjournment early enough to allow time for Congressional election campaigning, this session will have to be more intensive in activity than has been the case in recent years if appropriations bills and extensions of expiring legislation are to be completed.

Among the measures of interest to readers on which some action is required are extension of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and the Older Americans Act, both of which expire June 30. In addition, the Senate Committee on Finance still has to act on H.R.1, the House-passed bill containing improvements in the Social Security-OASDI programs, as well as welfare reform. A similar bill died in the 91st Congress because of controversy over some of the welfare reform provisions, and the controversial aspects of these provisions have not been eliminated in the bill under consideration. The House Committee on Ways and Means has concluded extensive hearings on national health insurance legislation, but whether action will be completed during this session is uncertain. Congressional committees are also expected to continue working on comprehensive manpower training legislation.

Two major administration proposals may receive more serious attention during this session. These are bills to provide for revenue sharing and reorganization of executive departments.

All of these measures have important implications for services to blind and other severely handicapped individuals. In particular, there is need to expand services under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act to provide basic rehabilitation services for older blind persons as well as to strengthen vocational rehabilitation services for the blind and other severely handicapped. Properly administered manpower training legislation can substantially strengthen employment resources for the blind and other handicapped as well as unemployed and under-employed, able-bodied individuals. In addition, favorable Senate action on amendments to improve the Randolph-Sheppard Act can be anticipated early in the session, and it is hoped that the House of Representatives will complete action this year.

Income Tax Exemption Increased

Public Law 92-178, the Revenue Act of 1971, was signed by the President on December 10 to implement his economic control recommendations. It contains provisions accelerating the increase in the individual income tax exemption, so that the exemption for 1971 will be $675 and for 1972, $750. These increased personal exemptions will also apply to the additional exemptions for blindness and for attainment of age 65. In addition, the law provides for a deduction of up to $400 per month for child care expenses incurred by widows, widowers, divorced or separated taxpayers, taxpayers with disabled spouses, and married couples whose combined income does not exceed $18,000 a year. In cases where a disabled dependent is being cared for, the amount of the deduction must be offset by disability benefits received with respect to the dependent.

WIN Program Revised

Public Law 92-223, a social security measure concerning burial allowances, was amended in the Senate both to extend the pass along for individuals receiving both OASDI cash benefits and welfare payments and to revise the Work Incentive Program for welfare recipients. The law requires state welfare agencies to disregard at least $4.00 a month of increased social security benefits in determining welfare payments through December 31, 1972.

The WIN provisions are designed to make the program more effective in providing training and jobs for mothers on the welfare rolls. They provide for more generous federal financing for training, child care, and other supportive services.

Child Development Bill Veto

On December 9, 1971, the President vetoed S.2007, the bill extending the Office of Economic Opportunity program and including a comprehensive child development program. The bill contained an earmarked appropriation for child development services for handicapped children.

In his veto message, the President claimed that the bill was too costly, administratively unworkable, and would "commit the vast moral authority of the National Government to the side of the communal approach to child rearing."

Unions Still Oppose Randolph-Sheppard Bill

Postal and government worker unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO opposed enactment of S.2506, the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand Act Amendments, at hearings held December 9 by the Subcommittee on Handicapped Workers of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. The Unions are the American Postal Workers Union, National Association of Letter Carriers, Post Office Mail Handlers, American Federation of Government Employees, and the Government Employees Council of the AFL-CIO itself. In contrast, the National Association of Internal Revenue Employees endorsed enactment of the bill.

In his opening statement at the beginning of the hearings, Senator Jennings Randolph (D-W.Va.), chairman of the Subcommittee and sponsor of the bill stated, "The intent of S.2506 is simple–to expand and enlarge the job opportunities for legally blind persons who are willing and able to operate vending facilities in federal installations . . . We have heard testimony from administration witnesses in previous hearings that the number of blind operators could be more than doubled–to about 7,500 vendors, within the next four years."

Senator Randolph continued, ". . . On Federal property, only licensed blind operators are authorized by Congress to operate vending facilities. Yet, in recent years the income from thousands of vending machines on Federal property has been diverted away from the program of providing jobs for blind persons. Instead, much of this income has gone to numerous employee groups who use the funds in a variety of ways, for health, recreation, and welfare purposes among federal employees. These are worthy projects, but in no way can the use of these funds by well-paid federal employees be compared to providing jobs for blind vendors."

While protesting their interest in and support for programs to assist the blind and other handicapped, the unions opposing S.2506 recommended a series of amendments which would give statutory authority to the existing practice of allowing federal employee welfare committees to install vending machines in federal buildings and use the profits for a variety of recreational and welfare purposes. Rulings by the Comptroller General of the United States have stated that federal employee groups do not have this authority, but no agency of the federal government has taken action to enforce these rulings and prevent this practice.

The opposing unions again disclaimed any connection with the federal employee welfare and recreation groups which are receiving income from vending machines and also claimed that they had no knowledge of the amount of vending machine income involved.

"This is a much more involved, important, and far-reaching piece of legislation than appears on the surface," the American Postal Workers Union representative stated. "This is particularly true insofar as hundreds and thousands of loyal, dedicated, and hard-working postal and other federal employees who have enjoyed beneficial health, safety, welfare, and recreational programs from *their purchases* of vending products and related income available for the good of all employees through their employee welfare committees which have been functioning in their best interest for up to 25 years."

In his statement in support of S.2506, Vincent L. Connery, National President, National Association of Internal Revenue Employees, said: "We are, after all, talking about a matter of principle as well as finance. Either one agrees that every opportunity should be afforded those without sight or one does not. Either one recognizes that the Randolph-Sheppard program must be strengthened in order to provide additional employment for the blind or one does not. For us there is no balancing of interests between the needs of the blind and those of the 'welfare organizations': the scales are unalterably weighted in favor of the blind."

Mr. Connery continued, "NAIRE is a union, and very decidedly so. We provide those we represent with meaningful benefits obtained through the collective bargaining process after long and gruelling hours of negotiations. We have made remarkable strides and have negotiated some of the most far-sighted agreements in the public sector; but we have never sought to prey upon those who do not have our strength in dealing with federal management. Not once have we ever attempted to secure, as the postal unions have, any improvement in working conditions by foreclosing the blind. Such tactics are too repugnant to our membership and officers even to be considered.

"In all of this, I do not mean to imply that there are not

'welfare organizations' in the Treasury Department. There most certainly are; but they receive no support from us nor do we seek anything from them except their demise. In fact, we soon will be engaged in litigation with the General Services Administration in an effort to restrain the 'welfare organizations' from competing with the blind in the operation of vending machines and stands in the Treasury Department. We do not believe that the funds obtained from the machines operated by these 'organizations' should be returned to the general Treasury; we believe that the 'welfare organizations' should be prohibited from competing with the blind and that all vending machines and stands should be placed under the Randolph-Sheppard program.

"Much has been said about the alleged devastating effect of S.2506 on the morale of the federal work force. I, for one, place absolutely no credence in these assertions. It has been our experience in the Treasury Department that the 'welfare organizations,' on the whole, are nothing more than management-dominated social groups that intimidate federal employees into contributing to causes which the 'boss' deems worthwhile. For example, when the supervisor's wife goes into the hospital, the 'welfare organization' immediately sends her flowers; when a lower-graded employee's wife goes into the hospital, she is lucky to get a card.

"We are also led to believe by those who wish to maintain the inviolacy of 'welfare organizations' for their own purposes that only the 'organizations' sponsor social and athletic activities. In point of fact, within our union, each one of our chapters has a full social program that is supported by union dues and not by funds that should rightfully be accruing to the blind.

". . . Taken all in all, the 'welfare organizations' are not of such importance to federal employees that they should be permitted to hamper the blind in their efforts to earn a living. To continue to allow such groups access to income which should be used to promote jobs for the visually handicapped cannot be justified under any circumstances.

"Moreover, I am of the firm belief that the overwhelming majority of federal employees are much more selfless and charitable than opponents of S.2506 have implied in prior testimony. I am certain that they are no more in favor of precluding the blind from the possibility of gainful employment than we are in NAIRE."

The Subcommittee on Handicapped Workers is expected to take action on S.2506 early in this session of Congress.

Social Security and Welfare Reform

The Senate Committee on Finance began hearing from public witnesses January 20 on H.R.1, the House-passed social security and welfare reform bill. Durward K. McDaniel, national representative of the American Council of the Blind; John F. Nagle, Washington representative of the National Federation of the Blind; and Irvin P. Schloss, Washington representative of American Foundation for the Blind, testified in support of several of the provisions of the bill. Mr. Schloss also appeared on behalf of the American Association of Workers for the Blind and Blinded Veterans Association.

All three witnesses supported amending H.R.1 to include the provision of S.1335, which would make it possible for blind persons with a minimum of six quarters in employment covered by social security to qualify for disability insurance cash benefits without regard to their ability to engage in substantial gainful activity. As passed by the House, H.R.1 would permit blind persons to qualify for these benefits if they are fully insured and not working.

The witnesses also supported federalization of the three adult public assistance categories–Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Blind, and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled–provided for in H.R.1 through the new Title XX of the Social Security Act. They recommended correction of provisions in the bill limiting exemption of earnings in determining need for public assistance to one family unit if both an eligible husband and wife are blind. At present, each blind recipient, including a blind husband and his blind wife, is entitled to a separate exemption of certain earnings. Similarly, they recommended continuation of the exempt earnings provision for blind recipients beyond age 65, as is the case under present law.

The spokesmen for the five organizations recommended an amendment to H.R.1 to incorporate the provisions of S.2434, a bill revising the maternal and child health and crippled children's program under Title V of the Social Security Act to provide for open end funding and to assist parents in meeting the high cost of catastrophic health and disability problems of their children. (See *Washington Report*, October 1971.) In a statement filed with the House Committee on Ways and Means on December 13, the same organizations supported H.R. 11525, a companion bill to S.2434. They recommended that the state agency serving blind persons be authorized to administer the portion of the state plan covering services to visually handicapped children.

It is likely that H.R. 1 with committee changes will be reported to the Senate early in March. The new proposed Title XXI covering revision of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program remains controversial, and questions about welfare coverage for the working poor and other aspects of this new title will have to be resolved.

Vocational Rehabilitation Hearings

The Select Subcommittee on Education of the House Committee on Education and Labor held hearings on amendments to the Vocational Rehabilitation Act January 31 to February 2. Among the bills being considered are H.R. 7949, introduced by Rep. Carl Perkins (D-Ky.) to establish a new program of rehabilitation services for older blind persons, and H.R. 9847, introduced by Rep. John Brademas (D-Ind.) to strengthen vocational rehabilitation services for the blind and other severely handicapped. Both bills were recommended by the national organizations of and for the blind. (See *Washington Report,* issues June and October 1971 for provisions of H.R. 7949 and H.R.9847.)

In addition, the Subcommittee considered H.R.8395, also introduced by Congressman Perkins, which rewrites the entire Vocational Rehabilitation Act and extends coverage under the program to individuals with behavioral disorders, alcoholics, drug addicts, and public offenders. At press time prior to the hearings, an administration bill had not yet been approved by the Office of Management and Budget in the Executive Office of the President.

Details of these hearings and Subcommittee action will appear in the next issue.

Civil Rights Amendments

Rep. Charles Vanik (D-Ohio) has introduced H.R. 12154 to amend Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to prevent discrimination by reason of physical or mental handicap in any federally assisted program. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, but hearings have not yet been scheduled. On January 20, Senators Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) and Charles Percy (R-Ill.) introduced S.3044, a companion bill to H.R. 12154. Individuals who know of cases of discrimination against blind or otherwise handicapped persons solely on account of their handicaps should write to the Washington office of the American Foundation for the Blind, stating details.

Switzer Memorial Building

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey and Rep. John Brademas have introduced identical bills to name the South building of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in Washington, D.C. the Mary Switzer Memorial Building. The bills are S.2943 and H.R.12359. The bills have been referred to the Senate and House Committees on Public Works, which are respectively chaired by Senator Jennings Randolph (D-W.Va.) and Rep. John Blatnik (D-Minn.).

EXECUTIVE BRANCH NEWS

Javits-Wagner-O'Day Committee

The White House announced on December 22 appointment of the three private citizen members of the Committee for Purchase of Products and Services of the Blind and Other Severely Handicapped called for in P.L.92-28, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act.

Jansen Noyes, Jr., chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Foundation for the Blind and the private citizen member of the committee under the old Act was appointed for a five-year term in the category of the member knowledgeable about employment problems of the blind and other severely handicapped. A general partner in the brokerage firm of Hornblower & Weeks-Hemphill, Noyes, he has served on the Board of Trustees of the Foundation since 1946. He is currently also chairman of the Board of Directors of American Foundation for Overseas Blind and a member of the Board and Executive Committee of National Industries for the Blind.

Dr. Anne Carlson, administrator, Crippled Children's School, Jamestown, North Dakota, was appointed to a four-year term on the Committee as the private citizen member representing severely handicapped workers in sheltered workshops. Active in both the education and rehabilitation of the handicapped. Dr. Carlson was selected as the Outstanding Handicapped American by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped in 1958. She was given the Outstanding Humanitarian Award of the Council for Exceptional Children in 1970. In 1960, she served as a consultant to various rehabilitation centers in Australia.

Thomas C. Hasbrook, head of Employee Communication at Eli Lily & Co., Indianapolis, Indiana, was appointed to a three-year term as the private citizen member representing blind workers in sheltered workshops. Blinded during World War II while serving as a lieutenant with the Marine Corps, Hasbrook has been active in Indiana politics and has served as a member of the Indiana House of Representatives and Senate. He is currently president of the Indianapolis-Marion County Council. From 1948 to 1950 Hasbrook served as national president of the Blinded Veterans Association. He is a sponsor of the Crossroads Rehabilitation Center, member of the advisory board of the Indiana School for the Blind, and has served as a member of both the Governor's and President's Committees on Employment of the Handicapped.

Appointment

Duane J. Mattheis, 43, has been appointed Deputy Commissioner for School Systems in HEW's Office of Education. He succeeds Dr. Terrel H. Bell, who resigned in September to become superintendent of the Granite School District in suburban Salt Lake County, Utah.

A native of North Dakota, Mattheis has spent all of his teaching career in Minnesota, serving as State Commissioner of Education from 1964 to 1969. For the past two years, he has been at Stanford University, working toward his Ph.D. in school administration.

Mattheis was awarded his B.S. degree from the Ellendale Branch of the University of North Dakota in 1950, and his M.A. in 1954 from the University of Northern Colorado. He also studied at Mankato (Minn.) State College, Teachers College of Columbia University, the University of Minnesota, and Stanford University. In 1964, following a career as a public school teacher and principal (as well as athletic coach), he was named Commissioner of Education for the State of Minnesota.

Blindness Statistics

A new publication containing the latest statistics relating to the prevalence and incidence of blindness in 16 states is now available from the National Eye Institute, part of HEW's National Institutes of Health.

The data was compiled by NEI's Office of Biometry and Epidemiology from information supplied by the 16 states which make up the Model Reporting Area for Blindness Statistics (MRA), a voluntary association in which each state maintains a separate registry of its blind.

The booklet, *Statistics on Blindness in the Model Reporting Area, 1968,* classifies persons added to each state's registry by age, color, sex, visual acuity, age when blinded, cause of blindness, and other factors.

The criteria for addition to state registers are explained, as well as the procedures used to accumulate the data. Also defined are the various parts of the visual system and the terminology used in the tables.

The booklet contains over 30 separate tables based on data from 15 reporting states: Connecticut, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia. Data from the 16th state, New York, newly added this year, is limited to the total number in the state register of the blind.

According to the MRA statistics, 7,334 blind people were added to the registers of the 15 states during 1968. Only 6 per cent of additions were totally blind; the rest had vision ranging from light perception to 20/200 in the better eye, the latter category being the most frequent.

Retinal disorders, primarily related to aging, diabetes, and prenatal factors, were the most frequent cause of additions to the MRA registers. Cataract and glaucoma were the second and third most frequently reported causes of newly reported blindness.

Single copies of the MRS booklet are available from the Information Office of the National Eye Institute free of charge. Quantities are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 at $.65 a copy.

Washington Report is published bimonthly by the American Foundation for the Blind to report Congressional activity on legislation affecting blind persons and those who work with blind persons, as well as the action of the federal agencies administering related programs. AFB national headquarters are at 15 West 16th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011, (212) 924-0420. A local office is maintained at 1660 L Street, N.W., Suite 213, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 293-1870. All material appearing herein may be quoted in whole or in part provided credit is given the source.

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WASHINGTON REPORT

American Foundation for the Blind, Inc., 15 West 16th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011

APRIL 1972

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND

washington report

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CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Social Security Amendments

The Senate Committee on Finance concluded public hearings February 9 on H.R.1, the social security and welfare reform bill. Senator Russell B. Long (D-La.), chairman of the Committee, has indicated that the bill would be reported for Senate floor action around April 1.

During executive sessions in March, the Committee approved two provisions of particular interest to readers. One already in the House-passed bill would authorize medicare coverage for disabled beneficiaries entitled to cash benefits for two years. The other, a substitute for the wording in the House-passed bill, would authorize cash disability insurance benefits for legally blind individuals who have a minimum of six quarters of employment covered by social security without regard to their ability to work. This is the fifth time the Senate has adopted this provision. As passed by the House of Representatives, H.R.1 authorized cash disability insurance benefits for legally blind individuals who are fully insured for social security purposes but unable to work. Fully insured status varies with the individual's work record for a minimum of six quarters of covered employment to 40 quarters.

On February 23, Rep. Wilbur D. Mills (D-Ark.), chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, which processed H.R.1, introduced H.R.13320, a bill increasing social security cash benefits by 20 percent in lieu of the 5 percent increase in H.R.1, effective June 1, 1972. This bill would also increase the taxable wage base for social security purposes to $12,000 beginning January 1, 1973, thereby substantially increasing cash benefits for individuals who retire or become disabled in future years.

Upon introducing H.R.13320, Mr. Mills urged the Senate Committee on Finance to substitute its provisions for comparable ones in H.R.1 to expedite Congressional action this year on the higher increase in benefits for current beneficiaries.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Under suspension of the rules on March 20, the House of Representatives passed H.R.8395, the Vocational Rehabilitation Amendments of 1972. In addition to revising the format of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and extending its provisions for three years through June 30, 1975, the bill provides for intensified services to special groups and, through Congressional intent expressed in the Committee report accompanying it, refocuses priorities in the program on services to the severely handicapped.

During four days of hearings, January 31 through February 3, the Select Subcommittee on Education of the House Committee on Education and Labor heard witnesses representing the National Rehabilitation Association, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, national organizations of and for the blind, national organizations serving the deaf, United Cerebral Palsy Association, National Easter Seal Society, Goodwill Industries of America, International Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, and other special problem groups testify on the several pending bills. The principal bills before the Subcommittee were H.R.7949, introduced by Rep. Carl Perkins (D-Ky.), chairman of the full Committee on Education and Labor, to authorize rehabilitation services for older blind persons without regard to their participation in vocational rehabilitation and employment; H.R.8395, introduced by Mr. Perkins and the other members of the Committee, to extend and improve the Vocational Rehabilitation Act; and H.R.9847, introduced by Rep. John Brademas (D-Ind.), chairman of the Subcommittee, to refocus priorities in the Act on services to the severely handicapped. The provisions of H.R.7949 and H.R.9847 were developed by the six national organizations of and for the blind: the American Association of Workers for the Blind, American Council of the Blind, American Foundation for the Blind, Blinded Veterans Association, National Council of State Agencies for the Blind, and the National

Federation of the Blind. The provisions of H.R.8395, as introduced, were developed by the National Rehabilitation Association.

No Administration bill had been introduced by the time of the hearings, a fact which caused Subcommittee Chairman Brademas to question the Administration's concern for vocational rehabilitation programs for the disabled, especially in view of the additional year provided by the Congress for preparation of a bill when it extended the Vocational Rehabilitation Act in December, 1970 from the June 30, 1971 expiration date through June 30, 1972.

When Departmental witnesses headed by HEW Secretary Elliott Richardson appeared on the third day of the hearings, a heated colloquy ensued between Mr. Brademas and the secretary over the desirability of charging handicapped rehabilitation clients fees for rehabilitation services, a provision reported by a previous witness to be in a draft of the Administration bill which was explained by officials of the Rehabilitation Services Administration at a briefing for representatives of interested organizations. The argument was unnecessarily prolonged as a result of the secretary's stubborn defense of the concept of fees for rehabilitation services which, with the assistance of officials accompanying him, he confused with the concept of economic need now imposed by most states under the present law. H.R.13408, the Administration's bill with the controversial fee schedule provisions omitted, was introduced by Rep. Ogden Reid (R-N.Y.), ranking minority member of the Select Subcommittee on Education, on February 24, too late for consideration. The full Committee on Education and Labor ordered H.R.8395 reported with amendments on February 24.

Durward K. McDaniel, national representative of the American Council of the Blind; John F. Nagle, chief of the Washington office, National Federation of the Blind; Irvin P. Schloss, American Foundation for the Blind's Washington representative, who also represented American Association of Workers for the Blind and Blinded Veterans Association; and Frederick Picard, executive director of the Catholic Guild for All the Blind, Archdiocese of Boston, who was accompanied by Guild board members, Dr. Hadi Magid and Mrs. Donald Schoen, appeared as a panel on February 2. They urged enactment of the provisions of H.R.7949 to assure a target program for providing rehabilitation services to older blind persons. The representatives of the national organizations of and for the blind also urged enactment of the provisions of H.R.9847 to refocus the thrust of the federal-state vocational rehabilitation program on the needs of severely handicapped individuals, many of whom are presently denied services by state agencies.

In revising H.R.8395, the Committee included some of the provisions of H.R.9847 and accepted its basic concept principally through the report accompanying H.R.8395 expressing the intent that priority in services be given to severely handicapped individuals. However, the Committee did not accept the provisions of H.R.7949 but established instead a new Title III of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act for grants to the states for "Comprehensive Services to the Severely Handicapped." Under Title III, rehabilitation services, without regard to a vocational objective, would be authorized for severely handicapped individuals, including the elderly blind. The Committee report emphasizes that the basic grants to the states program in Title I of the revised Act is to be used for vocational rehabilitation services to the severely handicapped, including the blind, and that Title III is to be used only as a supplementary program to provide services to those severely handicapped persons for whom rehabilitation for employment is not clearly indicated. Thus, the Committee intends that Title III services are to supplement and not supplant services to the severely handicapped under Title I programs.

H.R.8395 revises the format of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act into introductory sections containing definitions and other administrative provisions and titles within which are three digit section numbers containing the major provisions of the Act. Provisions of major interest to readers are as follows:

1. Title I (Vocational Rehabilitation Services) supplants Section 2 of the existing law covering grants to the states for vocational rehabilitation. It authorizes appropriations of $800 million for fiscal 1973, $950 million for fiscal 1974, and $1.1 billion for fiscal 1975. It increases the minimum allotment to each state to $2,000,000 or one-fourth of 1 percent of the actual appropriation for each year, whichever is greater. The federal share is 80 percent.
2. Expansion grants to the states, now authorized under Section 4(a)(2) of the present law, are included under Title I with authorization of appropriations of $50 million for fiscal 1973, $60 million for fiscal 1974, and $75 million for fiscal 1975. These grants are to include innovation grants now contained in Section 3 of the present law. Expansion grants are to be used for "classes of handicapped individuals who have unusual and difficult problems in connection with their rehabilitation and responsibility for whose treatment, education, and rehabilitation is shared by the state agency designated in Section 104(a)(1) with other agencies." This general wording supplants specific authorization in H.R.8395, as introduced, for expansion grants to be used to serve alcoholics, drug addicts, public offenders, and migratory workers. It is likely that the Committee

expects the first three groups to be covered without saying so directly, in view of testimony during the hearings that existing laws to assist in the rehabilitation of these problem groups should be strengthened instead of diluting the traditional vocational rehabilitation programs for the physically and mentally handicapped. Section 104(a)(1) merely designates the state vocational rehabilitation agency or state agency for the blind to administer the state plan. The federal share is 90 percent.

3. Title I authorizes administration of vocational rehabilitation programs by an agency of local government.

4. Title II (Evaluation of Rehabilitation Potential) is identical to Section 15 of the present law for vocational evaluation and work adjustment of the disadvantaged and disabled, with authority for administration of part of the state plan by a state agency for the blind. Section 15, originally enacted in 1968, has never been funded in the appropriation process. The authorization of appropriations for Title II is $50 million for fiscal 1973, $75 million for fiscal 1974, and $100 million for fiscal 1975. The federal share is 90 percent.

5. Title III (Comprehensive Services to the Severely Handicapped) authorizes appropriations of $30 million for fiscal 1973, $50 million for fiscal 1974, and $80 million for fiscal 1975. The definitions of the terms "severely handicapped" and "comprehensive services" are broad. However, as indicated above, grants to the states under Title III are to supplement and not supplant vocational rehabilitation services under Title I for severely handicapped individuals unless those individuals are clearly not capable of vocational training and employment. Within the limits prescribed by authorizations of appropriations, all categories of elderly severely handicapped persons will be able to receive basic rehabilitation services for independent living. The federal share is 90 percent.

6. Title III authorizes only 10 percent of the appropriation or $500,000, whichever is less, to be used for research and demonstration projects and for training of personnel.

7. Title IV (Special Federal Responsibilities) contains authorization for a number of programs now in different sections of the existing law and adds several new programs. Among the existing programs are research and demonstration projects, personnel training, the National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, construction and improvement of rehabilitation facilities, and the program for migratory workers. The new programs added to Title IV are establishment of a National Information and Resource Center for the Handicapped in the Office of the Secretary of HEW, authorization for comprehensive rehabilitation centers for low-achieving deaf youths and adults, creation of a National Commission on Transportation and Housing for the Handicapped, authorization of national centers for vocational rehabilitation of people with spinal cord injuries, and grants to the states for special services to end-stage renal disease cases. Also added to Title IV are two new programs providing for mortgage insurance for rehabilitation facilities and subsidized mortgage interest rates. A section authorizing special studies and investigations specifically mentions the homebound and the elderly blind.

Both the National Advisory Council on Vocational Rehabilitation and the National Policy and Performance Council on Rehabilitation Facilities and Workshops are expanded to include handicapped consumers of rehabilitation services. An amendment offered by Rep. Herman Badillo (D-N.Y.) during an executive session of the full Committee authorizes a study of wages paid to handicapped workers in sheltered workshops.

8. Title V (Program and Project Evaluation) authorizes evaluation by the secretary of HEW of the effectiveness of programs under the Act. Section 504, originally contained in H.R.9847, requires detailed reporting to the President and the Congress on rehabilitation closures and other statistics by the secretary.

9. Title VI (Miscellaneous) provides for transition from the existing law to the new Act. Section 603 statutorily creates the Rehabilitation Services Administration in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

When hearings are held by the Subcommittee on the Handicapped of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare early in April, representatives of the national organizations of and for the blind will seek amendments to H.R.8395 to include the provisions of S.1030, which was introduced on March 1, 1971, by Senator Jennings Randolph (D-W.Va.) and 52 cosponsors to provide for rehabilitation services to older blind persons as a target program. These same organizations will also recommend amendments to provide statutorily for preference in service for the severely handicapped contained in H.R.9847.

Subcommittee on the Handicapped

Senator Harrison A. Williams (D-N.J.), chairman of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, has announced the establishment of a new standing Subcommittee on the Handicapped, under the chairmanship of Senator Jennings Randolph. The new subcommittee replaces the Subcommittee on Handicapped Workers and will have legislative jurisdiction over vocational rehabilitation, developmental disabilities, the Randolph-Sheppard Act, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, and education of handicapped children. In

addition, the new subcommittee is authorized to make studies and investigations of programs affecting the handicapped in these areas.

In addition to Chairman Randolph, members of the Subcommittee are: Democrats: Alan Cranston, Calif.; Harrison A. Williams, N.J.; Claiborne Pell, R.I.; Edward M. Kennedy, Mass.; Walter F. Mondale, Minn.; Adlai E. Stevenson III, Ill. Republicans: Robert Stafford, Vt.; Robert Taft, Jr., Ohio; Jacob K. Javits, N.Y.; Richard S. Schweiker, Pa.; J. Glenn Beall, Jr., Md.

Office for the Handicapped

On February 9, Senator Harrison A. Williams introduced S.3158, a bill to create an Office for the Handicapped in the Office of the Secretary of HEW. The new office would coordinate HEW programs affecting the handicapped and house an information clearinghouse on benefits and services for handicapped persons. The director of the office would serve as a special assistant to the secretary.

Senator Williams also introduced S.J. Res.202 that day calling for a White House Conference on the Handicapped.

Committee Changes

The following committee membership changes should be noted on the May, 1971 *Special Supplement:*

1. Page 1, House Committee on Appropriations, delete George W. Andrews and add at the bottom of the list of Democrats, Tom Bevill, Alabama.
2. Page 3, House Committee on Government Operations, delete Walter E. Powell and insert at the end of the list of Republicans, Richard W. Mallary, Vt.
3. Page 4, House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, delete Tom Bevill, Robert J. Corbett, and C.W. Bill Young. Add at the end of the list of Republicans, William O. Mills, Md. and Richard W. Mallary, Vt.
4. Page 5, Senate Committee on Appropriations, delete Karl E. Mundt and Charles H. Percy. Add at the end of the list of Republicans, Mark O. Hatfield, Oregon and Ted Stevens, Alaska. Also page 5, Senate Committee on Commerce, delete Mark O. Hatfield and add at the end of the list of Republicans, Lowell P. Weicker, Jr., Conn.
5. Page 6, refer to the above article on the new Subcommittee on the Handicapped of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, replacing the old Subcommittee on Handicapped Workers.
6. Page 7, Special Committee on Aging, add Mr. Stafford at the end of the list of Republicans for the following Subcommittees: Housing for the Elderly, Employment and Retirement Incomes, Health of the Elderly, and Retirement and the Individual. The Republican membership of the Subcommittee on Federal, State, and Community Services should now be as follows: Mr. Percy, Mr. Miller, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Brooke. The Republican membership of the Subcommittee on Consumer Interests of the Elderly should now be as follows: Mr. Brooke, Mr. Fong, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Gurney, Mr. Saxbe, Mr. Percy. The Republican membership of the Subcommittee on Long-term Care should now be as follows: Mr. Miller, Mr. Fong, Mr. Gurney, Mr. Saxbe, Mr. Brooke, Mr. Percy.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH NEWS

HEW Executive Secretariat

On February 2, a Statement of Organization, Functions, and Delegations of Authority, establishing an Executive Secretariat in the Office of the Secretary of HEW, was published in the *Federal Register.*

The Executive Secretariat will be directed by the executive secretary to the department, who is responsible to the secretary. In addition there will be several assistant executive secretaries with responsibility for certain designated functional areas, the Correspondence Control Unit, the Department Regulations Coordinator, several staff assistants, and agency desk officers.

The statement lists the following objectives for the Executive Secretariat:

1. Provide to assistant secretaries, agency heads, and heads of Staff Offices the assignments and action requests of the secretary and the under secretary and their staffs and follow through to ensure that these assignments are completed in a timely and responsive manner.
2. Work with the assistant secretary for Planning and Evaluation and the assistant secretary for Administration and Management; monitor policy development and policy implementation activities of interest to the secretary's office.
3. Maintain a current and complete listing of who is responsible for action requests and assignments and the status of those requests and assignments in order to respond to requests for such information from throughout the department.
4. Encourage coordination, consultation, and communication throughout the department.
5. Communicate the objectives, priorities, and standards of the secretary's office to individuals involved in the preparation of correspondence and memoranda and ensure that communications signed or approved by the secretary's office are consistent with these standards and objectives.

6. Encourage the most effective utilization of the secretary's time, by ensuring completed staff work, providing for the resolution of minor disagreements and the maintenance of high quality work on routine matters.
7. Insure that agency heads, assistant secretaries, and heads of Staff Offices are informed of and given an opportunity to comment on proposed actions or decisions affecting their offices or responsibilities.
8. Encourage timely and responsive correspondence prepared for the secretary's office.
9. Work with the counselor to the department and serve as a liaison with the White House staff, the Domestic Council, and the Office of Management and Budget for purposes of assisting the secretary in the assignment of responsibility, information-flow, and follow-through.
10. Work with the assistant secretary for Administration and Management; design and implement new systems of coordination and follow-through throughout the department.

Among the functions assigned to the new Executive Secretariat are the following:

–Follows through to ensure timely preparation and submission of reports to Congress, promulgation of regulations required by statute, and implementation of enacted legislation.

–Follows through on Executive Orders, Presidential commitments in Messages to Congress, White House press releases, major speeches, etc.

–Serves as a liaison or initial point of contact for other federal agencies requesting information.

Intermediate Care Facilities

Medicaid patients may now receive services in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF's), when states so elect, under a new federal policy announced recently by John D. Twiname, administrator of HEW's Social and Rehabilitation Service. This action expands the long-term institutional services available, at a state's option, under medicaid.

Mr. Twiname said that Intermediate Care Facilities provide health-related care and services for patients who do not require care in skilled nursing homes (a required service in all medicaid programs) but need institutional care beyond room and board.

Until January, ICF's were financed by public assistance programs for the aged, blind, and disabled: only people eligible for financial assistance were eligible for care. Transfer of financing to the medicaid program permits states to make ICF care available to a larger group. They may now include the "medically needy," people with insufficient income for medical expenses who do not qualify for financial assistance.

The transfer of ICF's to medicaid was authorized by Public Law 92-223, signed by President Nixon on December 28, 1971 and effective January 1, 1972. The law also empowers the federal government to set physical and safety standards for ICF's and to define the care and services they must provide. It also requires that patients' need for care be subject to medical review.

Pending issuance of new regulations and supporting standards, existing ICF programs in 32 states and the District of Columbia will be accepted for funding under medicaid. Programs exist in Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

Under the new law, services provided in a public institution for the mentally retarded may be included as ICF services if the following conditions are met: The primary purpose of the care is to provide health and rehabilitative services, the patient is receiving active treatment, and the appropriate public agency agrees that non-federal expenditures for patients in the institution will not be reduced because of the medicaid payments.

States which do not have ICF programs may submit amendments to their medicaid plans under existing regulations to establish such programs.

Appointments

The National Advisory Committee on the Blind and Visually Handicapped appointed by HEW Secretary Elliott L. Richardson held its first meeting in Washington on March 7 and 8. The committee was established following the reorganization of the Rehabilitation Services Administration which changed the name of the Division for the Blind and Visually Handicapped to the Office for the Blind and Visually Handicapped and designated its chief as a special assistant to the administrator of the Social and Rehabilitation Service.

In announcing the membership of the committee, Secretary Richardson described its formation as "one of the most important moves forward in the field of work for the blind in many years." Represented on the national committee are the American Association of Workers for the Blind, the American Foundation for the Blind, American Council of the Blind, National Federation of the Blind, the

Association of Educators for the Visually Handicapped, and the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind. The committee will advise on policies and procedures dealing with comprehensive services for the blind and visually handicapped, as authorized by law, in the areas of vocational rehabilitation, social services, aging, prevention of blindness, the multiply-handicapped blind, and the Randolph-Sheppard vending stand program.

Appointed for three-year terms are Peter J. Salmon, Brooklyn, New York, chairman; L.H. Autry, Jr., North Little Rock, Arkansas; Mrs. Robert Estes Johnson, Englewood, Colorado; Miss Barbara E. Richards, Stockton, California; The Honorable Reese H. Robrahn, Topeka, Kansas; Mr. F. Robert Wiesenberger, Rocky River, Ohio.

Those to serve two-year terms are Carl J. Da Watertown, Massachusetts; Miss Betty Ann Jones, Uti New York; Mrs. Leah K. Manning, Carson City, Nevada, Lewis P. Meyers, Madison, Wisconsin; James Segvard Nyman, San Antonio, Texas; Mrs. Myroslava M. Oryshkewych, Parma, Ohio.

Appointed for one-year terms are Voris G. Bailey, Kansas City, Kansas; Dr. Stanley N. Clark, Provo, Utah; John S. Crowley, Greenwich, Connecticut; J. Michael Freeman, Vancouver, Washington; Kenneth Jernigan, Des Moines, Iowa.

* * * * * * *

Robert R. Wheeler, assistant superintendent of Kansas City, Missouri public schools since 1966, has been appointed associate commissioner for elementary and secondary education in HEW's Office of Education. Wheeler, 50, assumed his new duties in January under the direction of Deputy Commissioner for School Systems Duane J. Mattheis.

The Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education annually administers approximately $2.4 billion in federal funds for compensatory education programs to aid students in poverty areas, for aid to school districts in federally impacted areas, for support for innovations in education, and other assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

A 1948 graduate of Lincoln University, Jefferson City, [illegible] Wheeler received a Master of Science degree in the [illegible] educational guidance in 1955 from Columbia [illegible]rsity. He also completed graduate work in educational psychology and guidance in education at the University of Kansas City, the University of Kansas, and the University of California at Berkeley.

Wheeler has been an educational consultant and has served on various educational committees. In 1969 he was the recipient of the National Citation Award from Phi Delta Kappa fraternity and during the same year was cited for outstanding achievement in the field of education when he received the Citizen of the Year Award from the Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

Washington Report is published bimonthly by the American Foundation for the Blind to report Congressional activity on legislation affecting blind persons and those who work with blind persons, as well as the action of the federal agencies administering related programs. AFB national headquarters are at 15 West 16th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011, (212) 924-0420. A local office is maintained at 1660 L Street, N.W., Suite 213, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 293-1870. All material appearing herein may be quoted in whole or in part provided credit is given the source.

WASHINGTON REPORT

American Foundation for the Blind, Inc., 15 West 16th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011

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New York, N.Y.

JUNE 1972

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND

washington report

IRVIN P. SCHLOSS EDITOR

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Older Americans Act

On March 22, the President signed Public Law 92-258, which amends the Older Americans Act to provide for improved nutrition services for the elderly. In addition to improving the nutrition of individuals over 60, the new law is designed to deal with problems of social isolation through establishing meal service at senior centers and other community facilities.

Public Law 92-258 does the following:

1. Authorizes appropriations of $100 million for fiscal 1973 and $150 million for fiscal 1974.
2. Allots funds appropriated to each state on the basis of the population age 60 and over with a minimum allotment to each state of ½ of 1 percent of the appropriation.
3. Requires that state plan provisions authorize a single state agency for administration.
4. Authorizes the secretary to make grants in cash or in kind of up to 90 percent of the cost of providing food and food service.
5. Requires preference for low income individuals.
6. Requires state agencies to make grants or contracts for provision of at least one hot meal daily for at least five days a week in a location readily accessible to the majority of beneficiaries and, where appropriate, to provide transportation or delivery of meals to homebound individuals.
7. Authorizes provision of special diet requirements for health, religious, or ethnic reasons.
8. Authorizes provision of recreational activities and informational, health, and welfare counseling and referral services, where such services are not otherwise available.
9. Authorizes training of personnel and specifies that qualified elderly persons be given preference for staff positions.

Several bills have been introduced to extend the provisions of the Older Americans Act, which expires on June 30, with substantial increases in the authorization of appropriations. The Select Subcommittee on Education of the House Committee on Education and Labor held several days of hearings prior to the Easter recess but did not complete action on this legislation.

In a joint statement filed with the Subcommittee, the American Association of Workers for the Blind, American Council of the Blind, American Foundation for the Blind, and National Federation of the Blind recommended amendments to establish a specific program of grants or contracts with public and other nonprofit agencies for special services to older handicapped persons. The recommended special services are homemaker services, shopping services, escort and transportation services, reader services, letter writing services, and other services designed to assist older handicapped persons in the management of household affairs.

Aging Institute

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce on April 24 reported H.R. 14424, a bill establishing a National Institute of Aging in the National Institutes of Health. The new institute will be charged with conducting and supporting research on the aging process, research on preventive measures with respect to the special health problems and requirements of the aged, and research on treatment and cures for the other special health problems and requirements of the aged.

The bill also provides for the establishment of an Advisory Council similar to the other advisory councils in the National Institutes of Health. However, the Advisory Council will have the additional duty of advising the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare on programs relating to the aged which are administered by him, and reporting to the President for transmittal to the Congress and evaluation of those programs.

Social Security

The Senate Committee on Finance has continued to mark up H.R.1, the House-passed social security and

welfare reform bill, with indications that it will be ready for floor action early in June. As reported in the last issue, the Committee approved medicare coverage for individuals entitled to disability insurance cash benefits for two years and cash disability insurance benefits for blind persons with a minimum of six quarters in employment covered by social security without regard to their earnings.

In subsequent action, the Committee approved the increase in federal payments to individuals in the three adult public assistance categories—old age assistance, aid to the blind, and aid to the permanently and totally disabled—to $130 a month for an individual and $195 a month for an eligible couple, and exempted from consideration in determining eligibility the first $50 of monthly income from any source. In addition, the Committee left administration of this program to the states. This contrasts with federalization of the adult categories and increases over a three-year period from $130 to $150 for an individual and $195 to $200 for an eligible couple in the House-passed bill. The Senate Committee change is considered more liberal since the $50 exemption of income from any source is in addition to existing earnings exemptions of $60 a month for old age assistance recipients and $85 a month for blind and other disabled recipients.

In view of the lateness of the session and scheduled recesses for the national party conventions, there is increasing conjecture about a possibility that the Congress will enact a social security increase and the noncontroversial parts of the welfare program involving the adult categories, leaving the controversial family assistance program for action in the future.

Vocational Rehabilitation

The Subcommittee on the Handicapped of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare began hearings on H.R.8395, the House-passed vocational rehabilitation amendments, on May 15. Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), second ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee, will serve as acting chairman during the hearings.

In addition to H.R.8395, the hearings will also cover S.1030, a bill to amend the Vocational Rehabilitation Act to establish a formula grant program for providing rehabilitation services to older blind persons. S.1030 was introduced by Senator Jennings Randolph (D-W.Va.), chairman of the Subcommittee, and 52 cosponsors on March 1, 1971.

National organizations of and for the blind and several national organizations interested in programs for individuals with other severe handicaps are urging amendments to H.R.8395 to include the provisions of S.1030 and to strengthen services for severely handicapped individuals under the federal-state vocational rehabilitation program.

Randolph-Sheppard Amendments

On April 24, the Subcommittee on the Handicapped ordered S.2506, the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand Act Amendments of 1971, reported to the full Committee on Labor and Public Welfare with amendments. As reported by the Subcommittee, the bill eliminates the provisions for exclusive assignment of vending machine income, thus leaving the controversial issue of distribution of vending machine income on federal property as it is under present law in order to make the bill more acceptable to the House of Representatives. Pressure from postal worker and other governmental employee unions made House consideration of S.2506, as introduced, unlikely.

The other major provisions of the bill were not changed. These include: the more comprehensive definition of a vending facility operated by blind persons under the program, arbitration procedures for aggrieved operators or state licensing agencies, authorization for judicial review, and assurance of sites for vending facilities operated by blind persons in newly constructed or substantially renovated buildings as well as in space leased by the federal government. The date of action by the full Committee and the Senate was not certain at press time.

Supplementary Media Services

On March 22, Senator Harrison A. Williams, Jr. (D-N.J.) introduced S.3407, a bill amending the instructional media provisions of the Education of the Handicapped Act. Senators Jennings Randolph and Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) are cosponsors.

The bill adds television products, theatre productions, and other media to the captioned films program for the deaf. It also provides for a program of sensory and communication devices for the education of the other handicapped. The bill establishes programs designed to assist in the development of special aids and services to help handicapped individuals in continuing education programs.

Small Business Loans

On April 4, Senator Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) introduced S.3446, a bill to authorize loans to nonprofit workshops for the handicapped under the Small Business Act. The bill would authorize loans directly through the Small Business Administration or in cooperation with banks or other lending institutions to workshops which observe occupa-

tional health and safety standards prescribed by the Secretary of Labor and which employ 75 percent handicapped labor in the provision of products or services.

Committee Changes

There are two additional changes to be made in the May 1971 *Special Supplement:*

1. On page 2, House Committee on Education and Labor, delete Ogden R. Reid from the list of Republicans and insert at the bottom of the list, Clifford D. Carlson, Ill.
2. On page 4, House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, add George W. Andrews, Ala. at the end of the list of Democrats.

Bray Honored

Robert S. Bray, chief of the Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by Pacific University of Forest Grove, Oregon, on May 7, 1972. The award was presented to Mr. Bray during the university's annual commencement weekend exercises by James V. Miller, president, in recognition of his contributions to library services for the blind and physically handicapped. Mr. Bray has been chief of the division since May 1957.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH NEWS

Advisory Committees

HEW Secretary Elliot L. Richardson has announced appointment of five new members to his Advisory Committee on Older Americans to bring that Committee to full strength.

The five new members are Miss Bertha Adkins, former under secretary of HEW, vice chairman of the Committee; Fred Cottrell, professor and chairman of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; Dr. Thomas F. Frist, Sr., practicing physician in Nashville, Tenn., a founder and first president of the Tennessee Council on Aging; Mrs. Cernoria Dolores Johnson, director, Department of Government Affairs, National Urban League, Washington, D.C.; and Peter MacDonald of Window Rock, Arizona, a member of the Navajo Tribal Council.

All of the new appointees were involved in preparations for and activities of the 1971 White House Conference on Aging. All were delegates and several were officers of the Conference.

John B. Martin, U.S. Commissioner on Aging, is committee chairman and, in that capacity, reports directly to the secretary.

The other members of the 15-member Advisory Committee who will continue to serve are Marietta R. Benge, chairman, Advisory Board for Older Americans Center, Grand Junction, Colorado; James S. Bennett, D.M.D., head of the Department of Gerodontology, University of Oregon Dental School; Robert D. Blue, former governor of Iowa and present chairman of the Iowa Commission on Aging; Marguerite Stitt Church, Evanston, Illinois, former member of Congress; Carl Eisdorfer, Ph.D., M.D., director of the Duke University Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development, Durham, N.C., and president of the Gerontological Society; Adelaide C. Hill, Ph.D., director, Boston University Afro-American Center, Boston, Mass.; Victor Kassell, M.D., geriatrician, Salt Lake City, Utah, with broad experience in planning and community programs for the elderly; Elizabeth K. Lincoln, director, New Hampshire State Council on the Aging, Concord, N.H.; David C. Singler, senior project manager for Litton Industries, New York City, an architect who has worked with minority groups, especially in the housing field; and Clara Yanez, R.N., Phoenix, Arizona, active in public health nursing for many years, with particular attention to Spanish surnamed older people.

The Advisory Committee on Older Americans was established by the Older Americans Act of 1965 "for the purpose of advising the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare on matters bearing on his responsibilities under this Act and related activities of his Department."

The Committee will be particularly concerned with advocacy on behalf of older people and coordination of departmental and other federal programs for the elderly.

* * * * * * * * * *

Secretary Richardson has also announced appointment of five new members, four of whom represent consumers, to the Medical Assistance Advisory Council. Two other appointees, who recently completed their original terms on the Council, have been reappointed to fill the terms of two members who have resigned.

The four new members representing consumers, who will serve for four years, are: Joyce Currie, Ravilli, Montana, a Salish-Kootenai Indian; Hannah Banks Best, a former social worker and teacher of sociology, Albuquerque, N.Mex.; Helene K. Sargeant, Boston, Mass., who has had extensive experience as a volunteer in Boston community services; and Barbara Smith Man, a volunteer civic and charity drive leader, Dallas, Texas. Sam A. McConnell, Jr., an Arizona

state legislator and pharmacist, Williams, Arizona is the fifth new member. He also will serve for four years.

The two reappointements to the Council are: Dr. Thomas W. Georges, Jr., associate vice president of Community Health Services at the Temple University Health Services Center, Philadelphia, Pa.; and Dr. Elmer M. Smith, medical director of the Iowa State Department of Social Services, Des Moines, Iowa.

The Council, under the chairmanship of Donald M. Smith, M.D., University of Michigan, advises the secretary and the Social and Rehabilitation Service on administration of the federal-state medical assistance program for the poor (medicaid). The Council works in close relationship with the Medical Services Administration.

The Council was established in 1968 with the requirement that a majority of its members represent consumers. These appointments bring the Council to its full strength of 21.

Rehabilitation Statistics

HEW's Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has announced that 291,272 disabled persons were rehabilitated in fiscal 1971, a nine percent increase over the 1970 total of 266,975.

In a report filed with Congress, RSA said that federal funds totalling $541,831,702 were provided to the states in fiscal 1971 for vocational rehabilitation purposes. The report noted that RSA has been stressing vocational rehabilitation for the poor to help break their cycle of dependency. In that connection, Dr. Edward Newman, the RSA commissioner, pointed out that there is a higher disability rate among the nation's impoverished.

Other highlights of the RSA report are:

–RSA's program for the developmentally disabled, which includes the mentally retarded, provided $11.215 million to the states in fiscal 1971. These funds helped finance projects that served 7,560 mentally retarded persons, and provided training for 803 individuals.

–About 24,000 blind and visually handicapped rehabilitants attained jobs, ranging from service occupations to professional positions, in fiscal 1971.

–An estimated 15,400 deaf and hearing and speech impaired persons were rehabilitated in 1971.

–The number of alcoholics rehabilitated through RSA–related programs increased approximately 27 percent, from 11,300 in 1970 to an estimated 14,400 in 1971.

–In 1971, about 1,000 drug addicts were rehabilitated, an increase of eight percent over the previous year. (Special projects in rehabilitation of addicts were active in California, Connecticut, Minnesota, Missouri, and New York.)

Welfare Statistics

Public assistance payments rose during 1971 to a new high of $17.73 billion, a 23 percent increase over 1970, John D. Twiname, administrator of SRS reported recently.

The figures include both welfare cash assistance and medicaid payments by federal, state, and local governments. The federal share was $9.13 billion. The overall figure for calendar 1971 was $3.29 billion higher than the 1970 total.

In 1971, total medical assistance payments climbed to $6.92 billion, up $1.34 billion, or 24.1 percent, over the previous year. Welfare money payments amounted to $10.81 billion, an increase of $1.95 billion, or 22 percent, over 1970.

Increases in money payments programs in 1971 were recorded as follows: Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), $1.35 billion, or 27.8 percent; Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD), $189.3 million or 18.9 percent; Old Age Assistance (OAA), $26 million, or 1.4 percent; Aid to the Blind (AB), $2.5 million, or 2.6 percent; and General Assistance (GA), $142.2 million, or 23 percent. GA is entirely financed by state and local governments.

At year-end, the total number of persons receiving welfare money payments reached a new high of 14.8 million, an increase of 7.2 percent over 1970.

The total of 10,651,000 AFDC recipients in December, 1971, was 10.3 percent higher than in December, 1970. The average payment per family in December, 1971 was $188.45 as opposed to $187.90 the previous December.

The number of persons receiving OAA in December, 1971, was 2,024,000, or 2.8 percent lower than the number a year earlier. A sizeable part of the year's decrease reflected case closings resulting from increased social security benefits, effective January 1, 1971. For all states combined, the average OAA payment declined slightly from $77.65 in December, 1970, to $77.35 in December, 1971.

Recipients of APTD numbered 1,068,000 in December, 1971, compared with 935,000 a year earlier. Forty-seven states reported increases in their APTD programs. The average APTD payment for all states combined was $102 in December, 1971, compared with $98 a year ago.

Recipients of aid to the blind totaled 80,300 in December, 1971, 700 less than in the same month a year earlier. Blind persons received an average payment of $106 in December, 1971, which was the highest average per

person payment in the cash assistance program. The average payment in December, 1970 was $104.

Persons on the general assistance rolls in December, 1971, numbered 982,000, or 6.9 percent less than in the same month a year earlier. The average GA payment per recipient for all states combined rose from $58 in December, 1970, to $65 in December, 1971.

Day Care Handbook

Dr. Edward Zigler, director of HEW's Office of Child Development (OCD), has been announced publication of four handbooks on child care as part of a project designed to ensure that day care services for the nation's children meet good child development standards.

The four are part of a series of 13 handbooks on day care being prepared by the project, which is sponsored jointly by OCD and the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO).

"This series has been planned to make sure that the children of working mothers have the kind of day care that President Nixon has emphasized—day care that not only provides for a child's health and safety but also contributes to the child's development. These publications will also help train child care workers to meet the urgent need for trained personnel for day care programs—a need that the President has commented upon," Dr. Zigler said.

The project publications reflect the thinking of leading child care experts and are prepared with the cooperation of more than 200 professionals, day care operators, and parents.

To launch the project, OCD and OEO convened a 10-day workshop attended by 85 nongovernmental child development specialists, day care operators, and parents in Warrenton, Virginia, in July, 1970. The initial suggestion for this project had come from the Panel on Educational Research and Development of the President's Science Advisory Committee, chaired by Dr. Frank J. Westheimer.

At the workshop, participants divided into teams led by well-known child development experts. One team prepared a statement of principles of basic guidelines for operation of day care programs for children of all ages. Other teams developed material for additional handbooks designed to describe child development and educational requirements of good day care programs and to provide effective models.

The complete series, being published by OCD, will include: the statement of principles; three handbooks on child development and educational aspects of day care for infants, preschool, and school-age children; and separate handbooks on day care health services; staff training; day care administration; facilities; family day care homes; serving handicapped children in day care; black curriculum models; and Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Indian models of day care. There will also be a revised edition of the previously published *Federal Interagency Day Care Requirements.*

At the present time, the statement of principles and the handbooks on child development in infancy, staff training, and health services have been made available. The other titles will be published later this year.

Research for Better Schools, Inc., Philadelphia, Pa., received a grant from OCD and OEO to supervise the preparation of the statement of principles and six of the handbooks. Ronald K. Parker, Ph.D., was the project director.

An advisory committee including leading authorities in child development and day care provided overall guidance to the project.

The four published handbooks are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402: "Day Care Handbook 1: A Statement of Principles," 30¢; "Day Care Handbook 2: Serving Infants," 75¢; "Day Care Handbook 5: Staff Training," 50¢; and "Day Care Handbook 6: Health Services," 75¢.

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AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND

washington report

IRVIN P. SCHLOSS – EDITOR

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

Education

Public Law 92-318, the Education Amendments of 1972, signed by the President on June 23, 1972, contains extensions and improvements of numerous higher education programs with authorizations of appropriations totalling $21.6 billion for the three fiscal years ending July 1, 1975. In addition to grants for construction of and financial assistance to community colleges and other institutions of higher education, the Act contains improvements in various student assistance programs, including grants for undergraduates, fellowships for graduate students, and insured and direct loans. Of special interest to readers are extension and improvement in several programs to assist physically handicapped college students or individuals preparing to become teachers of the handicapped. Needy physically handicapped students who are considered to have a potential for higher education may be assisted through Talent Search or Upward Bound programs. In addition, depending on family income, physically handicapped students may obtain grant assistance for an education.

The new law extends provisions of the Education Professions Development Act to prepare teachers of handicapped children. In addition, for individuals who teach handicapped children, it liberalizes the forgiveness provisions in the student loan program at the rate of 15 percent forgiveness for the first two years, 20 percent for the next two years, and 30 percent for the fifth year so that an individual who teaches handicapped children for a full five-year period will have all of his loan paid for.

Section 904 of Public Law 92-318 specifically prohibits discrimination, solely on the ground of blindness, against blind persons in any course of study in federally assisted education programs.

The new act statutorily establishes in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare an Education Division consisting of the Office of Education and the National Institute of Education. The Division is to be headed by the assistant secretary for education, who is specifically prohibited from serving as the commissioner of education or director of the institute. It is anticipated that the National Institute of Education will be assigned some of the research activities currently administered by the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped.

On May 16, Senator Harrison A. Williams (D-N.J.), for himself and Senators Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.) and Jennings Randolph (D-W.Va.), introduced S.3614, a bill to provide financial assistance to the states for improved educational services for handicapped children. A companion bill, H.R. 15727 was introduced on June 28 by Rep. John Brademas (D-Ind.).

These bills would establish a program of grants to states to cover 75 percent of the difference in the cost of educating handicapped children over the cost of educating non-handicapped children. The purpose of this additional financial assistance is to assure the education of more handicapped children. State plan provisions require that funds under this new grant program supplement and increase state and local funds expended and not supplant them.

Among the other state plan provisions are requirements that states must give assurance that they will provide full and appropriate services to all handicapped children by 1976. States are also required to identify all handicapped children within the state and assign responsibility for the education of these children to the appropriate local educational agency. In addition, states are required to evaluate the educational services each handicapped child is now receiving. State plans must also provide for an advisory committee which shall be broadly representative of individuals involved in the education of handicapped children, including educators, administrators of programs for handicapped children, handicapped individuals, and parents of handicapped children.

A major state plan requirement which would deal with the long-standing concern of the American Foundation for the Blind regarding institutionalization of handicapped

children reads as follows:

"Each such plan shall. . .(2) provide for effective procedures for evaluation of the state's present procedures for the institutionalization of handicapped children, including classification procedures, services provided within institutions, and an evaluation of whether institutionalization best meets the needs of such children. Such evaluation shall also include recommendations for methods of de-institutionalizing children with recommendations of how such children will best be integrated into the regular educational system, if appropriate, and procedures for carrying out these recommendations. . ."

Using what he characterizes as a conservative excess cost figure of $400 a year for the education of a handicapped child, Senator Williams estimates that S.3614 would result in grants to the states of $674,731,600 in contrast to $37,499,378, which the states received in fiscal 1972 under the provisions of Title VI-B of the Education of the Handicapped Act.

Appropriations

H.R.13955, the bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch, contains an appropriation of $8,892,000 for the Books for the Blind and Physically Handicapped program administered by the Library of Congress for fiscal 1973. The bill was sent to the President for approval before Congress recessed on June 30.

The Senate on June 27 passed H.R.15417, the bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education, and Welfare and related agencies for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1973. As passed by the Senate, the bill contains appropriations of $31.4 billion, in contrast to $28.6 billion as passed by the House of Representatives. The bill will be considered in conference to reconcile differences when Congress reconvenes on July 17 following the Democratic national convention.

Since most of the programs under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act expired June 30 and action on H.R.8395, the bill extending the Act, has not been completed by the Senate, the House failed to include any appropriation for these programs. The Senate added $20 million for regional vocational rehabilitation centers contingent upon extension of these provisions of the Act. Similarly, the programs under the Older Americans Act, with the exception of the new nutrition for the elderly program (P.L.92-258), expired June 30. A continuing resolution adopted prior to the June 30 recess temporarily extends the authority for both the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and Older Americans Act and authorizes at the level of fiscal 1972 expenditures appropriations for these and other programs on which appropriation action has not yet been completed until Congress completes its action. Appropriations for programs under these two Acts will have to be handled in a supplemental appropriation bill prior to the August 18 recess for the Republican national convention or in September.

The following table lists items of interest:

	1972	1973 request	House	Senate
LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT, TITLE I*	$46,568,500	$30,000,000	$62,000,000	$69,500,000
EDUCATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED				
State grant programs (EHA-B)	$37,500,000	$37,500,000	$50,000,000	$80,000,000
Deaf-blind centers (EHA-C, Sec. 622)	$ 7,500,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Early Childhood Projects (EHA-C, Sec. 623)	7,500,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000
Specific learning disabilities (EHA-G)	2,250,000	3,250,000	3,250,000	5,000,000
Regional Resource centers (EHA-C, Sec. 621)	3,550,000	7,243,000	7,243,000	7,243,000
Innovation and development (EHA-E, Sec. 641,642)	6,105,000	9,916,000	9,916,000	12,416,000
Technology and communications (EHA-D and F)	11,000,000	13,500,000	13,500,000	13,500,000
Special education and manpower (EHA-D)	34,685,000	37,700,000	37,700,000	41,700,000
PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF THE HANDICAPPED	860,000	850,000	850,000	890,000

	1972	1973 request	House	Senate
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH	238,786,000	252,676,000	252,676,000	279,676,000
NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE	37,132,000	37,384,000	38,562,000	45,000,000
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	116,510,000	127,244,000	130,429,000	160,000,000
SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICE				
Grants to states for public assistance	12,169,134,000	13,323,704,000	13,323,704,000	13,323,704,000
Construction vocational rehab. facilities	3,051,000	–	–	20,000,000
Developmental disabilities	49,540,000	44,465,000	–	67,825,000
Nutrition for the elderly	–	100,000,000	100,000,000	100,000,000
Research and training (foreign currency)	8,000,000	10,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000
AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND	1,580,000	1,696,500	1,696,500	1,696,500

*Under P.L. 91-600, no less than $3.428 million must be used for former Title IV programs, which include Library Service for the physically handicapped.

Social Security

As a result of an amendment to the bill increasing the ceiling on the public debt, Social Security cash benefits will be increased by 20 percent effective September 1. The new law is P.L. 92-336. In addition to the increase in cash benefits, the new law also increases the taxable wage base to $10,800 beginning January 1, 1973, and to $12,000 beginning January 1, 1974. The taxable wage base will be increased on the basis of a formula, taking into account average increases in wages. Beginning in 1975, increases in Social Security cash benefits will go into effect when there is a 3 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index unless the Congress acts first to increase these benefits.

On June 30, the Congress passed and sent to the President H.R. 9410, a bill extending for one year special projects under Title V of the Social Security Act, which was due to expire that day. The special projects—maternity and infant care, preschool health programs, and dental health programs—were extended at the current level of authorization of appropriations.

The Senate Committee on Finance ordered H.R. 1, the Social Security amendments of 1972, reported for floor action. The report is expected to be filed during the recess period ending July 17. Senate floor action is expected to begin after Congress reconvenes on that day. Of particular interest to readers are the following actions:

1. The increase in Social Security cash benefits contained in H.R. 1 has been superseded by P.L. 92-336.
2. The special minimum benefit for individuals employed in covered employment is increased to $200 a month for an individual and $300 a month for a couple, in contrast to $150 a month for an individual and $200 a month for a couple as approved by the House of Representatives.
3. The waiting period for disability insurance cash benefits is reduced to four months, in contrast to five months as approved by the House and six months in existing law.
4. Social Security cash benefits would be extended to dependent sisters and dependent disabled brothers.
5. Cash disability insurance benefits would be made available to blind persons who have a minimum of six quarters in covered employment without regard to their ability to work. The House-passed bill would make it possible for blind persons who are fully insured to qualify for cash disability benefits provided they are not able to engage in substantial gainful activity. Fully insured status varies from a minimum of six quarters of coverage to 40 quarters in covered employment.
6. A widow's benefit applied for at age 65 would be increased to the same amount her deceased husband would be entitled to receive at age 65 instead of being actuarially reduced. If a widow's benefit is applied for between the

ages of 60 and 65, it would be actuarially reduced.

7. The retirement test—the amount an individual would be permitted to earn and still receive full benefits after retirement—would be increased from $1,680 a year to $2,000 a year and reduced by $1 for every $2 of earnings above that amount.

8. A disabled child would be entitled to receive disability child's benefits if the disability occurred before age 22.

9. Expenditures from the Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund for vocational rehabilitation of beneficiaries would be increased from the current 1 percent of expenditures to 1¼ percent for FY 1972 and 1½ percent for FY 1973 and subsequent years.

10. Effective July 1, 1973, disability cash beneficiaries in various categories would be made eligible for Medicare coverage under age 65 after entitlement to cash benefits for a period of two years.

11. Medicare beneficiaries would be authorized to obtain prosthetic lenses from optometrists without requiring the prior approval of opthalmologists.

12. Medicare beneficiaries would be entitled to have the cost of outpatient prescription drugs used in the treatment of diabetes; high blood pressure; chronic cardiovascular disease; chronic respiratory disease; chronic kidney disease; arthritis, gout, and rheumatism; tuberculosis; glaucoma; thyroid disease; and cancer. These would be covered under Medicare with a $1 charge to the patient for each prescription.

13. In contrast to the House-passed bill, which federalized welfare payments to the aged, blind, and disabled, H.R. 1, as ordered reported by the Senate Finance Committee, would continue state administration of these programs.

14. Aged, blind, and disabled welfare recipients would be assured of minimum payments of $130 a month for an individual and $195 a month for an eligible couple.

15. Unearned income of $50 a month from Social Security or other sources would be disregarded for these individuals.

16. Earnings of $50 a month and half of earnings above that amount would also be disregarded for the individuals.

17. The Senate Finance Committee would add the standard legal definition of blindness to the appropriate section of the Act covering eligibility of blind persons for welfare payments. It would also add the same definition of disability used for disability insurance beneficiaries to the appropriate section of the Act as a criterion of eligibility for aid to the permanently and totally disabled welfare recipients.

18. Liens against property would be prohibited as a condition of eligibility for welfare payments to blind persons.

19. Social services would be specified rather than left to broad administrative determination and federal matching funds would vary between 65 percent and 75 percent, depending upon the per capita income of the state. Except for child care, family planning, and child welfare services, which would continue to be financed on an open-end basis, the other social services would be limited by an authorization of appropriations of $1 billion a year beginning in FY 1973.

20. The federal government would be authorized to cover 100 percent of administration costs of welfare programs for the blind, aged, and disabled, using calendar year 1972 as a base period, plus 50 percent of administrative costs.

21. The Senate Committee on Finance would require that the administrator of the Social and Rehabilitation Service be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Vocational Rehabilitation

The Subcommittee on the Handicapped of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare held five days of hearings on H.R.8395, the Vocational Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1972. Although Senator Jennings Randolph (D-W.Va.) is chairman of the Subcommittee, Senator Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) served as acting chairman during these hearings. Subcommittee members questioned witnesses extensively in an effort to develop detailed information on the effectiveness of the federal-state vocational rehabilitation program.

A panel of witnesses consisting of Durward K. McDaniel, National Representative, American Council of the Blind; John F. Nagle, Washington Representative, National Federation of the Blind; and Irvin P. Schloss, representing the American Foundation for the Blind, American Association of Workers for the Blind, and Blinded Veterans Association testified on May 23. They advocated inclusion in H.R.8395 of the provisions of S.1030, the bill to provide rehabilitation services to older blind persons, as well as a number of amendments designed to strengthen services to severely handicapped individuals. These amendments were agreed upon in cooperation with other national organizations interested in programs for the severely handicapped.

In addition, they proposed specifying in the Act the right to a formal hearing for handicapped individuals dissatisfied with services, an arbitration mechanism for resolving disagreements between the client and agency, and authorization of judicial review when administrative appeals mechanisms are found to be unsatisfactory. They also supported authorization of claims representatives to appear on behalf of handicapped clients similar to the procedure used successfully by the Veterans Administration for many years.

They advocated prohibition of financial need as a criterion of eligibility for services under the Act for severely handicapped individuals, recommended periodic evaluation of the status of individuals placed in sheltered employment, and supported the use of on-the-job training and other community education resources prior to consideration of workshops as training facilities.

Since conclusion of the hearings on June 6, Subcommittee staff members have been intensively reviewing the provisions of H.R.8395 in the light of the testimony which was presented. The Subcommittee was expected to complete action on the bill following the recess for the Democratic National Convention.

Older Americans Act

Both the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare and the House Committee on Education and Labor have been working on bills to extend the Older Americans Act, which expired on June 30. It is likely that action will be completed on this legislation before Congress recesses on August 18 for the Republican National Convention.

Air Travel Concession

The Subcommittee on Aviation of the Senate Committee on Commerce held three days of hearings June 13 to 15 on bills to amend the Federal Aviation Act to authorize reduced fares on airlines for the elderly and reduced or free transportation for a blind or otherwise handicapped individual accompanied by a guide or other attendant. Representatives of the American Council of the Blind, American Association of Workers for the Blind, American Foundation for the Blind, and Blinded Veterans Association testified in support of the airline concession for blind persons while John F. Nagle, representing the National Federation of the Blind, opposed the legislation.

In his statement supporting the legislation, AFB's Washington representative, who also appeared on behalf of AAWB and BVA, pointed out that the majority of blind people in the United States are elderly and that most of them require guide service in mobility as opposed to using a dog guide or a cane. He indicated that AFB would be willing to issue coupon books in cooperation with airlines, granting the concession in the same way it handles similar coupon books for railraod and bus travel by blind persons accompanied by a sighted guide.

In his statement opposing the legislation, Mr. Nagle pointed out that airlines provide special services to blind and handicapped individuals traveling alone and that special fare concessions based on the fact that an individual is blind are unnecessary.

It is unlikely that any action will be taken on this legislation by the Subcommittee. Similar hearings were originally scheduled for June, 1971 and postponed pending submission of a report on the entire question of reduced fares by the Civil Aeronautics Board. The report had not been submitted at the time of the hearings and was expected to be available in July.

White House Conference on the Handicapped

On May 24, the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare reported S.J.Res.202, a resolution calling for a White House Conference on the Handicapped. The resolution would authorize the spending of $2 million to finance the Conference. An amendment adopted by the Committee would require that handicapped persons be employed on the Conference planning staff as well as being delegates to the Conference itself.

"The Conference would provide an invaluable forum in which to explore problems faced by handicapped Americans and develop solutions," said Senator Harrison A. Williams, Jr. (D-N.J.), chairman of the Committee and principal sponsor of the resolution. "It would strengthen the federal commitment to our handicapped citizens, and help in designing programs to aid them in such areas as education, employment, health care, transportation, income maintenance, and others."

EXECUTIVE BRANCH NEWS

Appointments

HEW Secretary Elliot L. Richardson has announced the appointment of 16 members of a newly formed Technical Advisory Committee on Aging Research. Secretary Richardson described the formation of the Committee as "a major advance in the efforts of this department to better serve the needs and interests of our older citizens."

Fred Cottrell, Ph.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, will serve as chairman of the new research committee. The other 15 members named to the research committee are:

Elinor J. Barnes, Ph.D., psychologist and social researcher, chairman, Retirement Housing Administration, College of Business and Public Administration, University of Arizona, Tucson.

H. Robert Bartell, Jr., Ph.D., specialist on pension funds and author of a number of publications on these funds and

their investments, and representative of Gov. Richard B. Ogilvie in Illinois departments concerned with financial institutions.

George McSpadden Briggs, Ph.D., nationally known nutritionist, professor and chairman of the Department of Nutrition Sciences, University of California at Berkely.

Eveline M. Burns, Ph.D., economist, expert on Social Security and income maintenance, and professor, Graduate School of Social Work, New York University, New York University, New York City.

Elias Cohen, social planner, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and former state executive for aging.

Herold Christian Hunt, Ed.D., Charles William Eliot professor of education emeritus, Harvard University, and former under secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Walter C. McKain, Ph.D, sociologist and professor, Department of Sociology, University of Connecticut at Storrs, particularly concerned with problems of the rural elderly.

Robert Morris, D.S.W., professor of social planning, Florence Heller Graduate School, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts and co-chairman, American Foundation for the Blind, Task Force on Geriatric Blindness.

Bernice L. Neugarten, Ph.D., professor and associate chairman, Department of Human Development, University of Chicago.

Marvin B. Sussman, Ph.D., professor and co-chairman, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, specializing in study of the "family unit."

Wendell Monson Swenson, Ph.D., clinical psychologist and associate professor, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, University of Minnesota.

Seldon P. Todd, statistician and research manager, and director, Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies in Minneapolis.

Linnie-Marie P. Tolliver, psychiatric social worker and professor, School of Social Work, University of Oklahoma, involved in development of social services for the aging, with special attention to the minority aging.

Hsioh-Shan Wang, M.D., psychiatrist, Duke University Medical Center, with emphasis on geriatric psychiatry and cerebrovascular diseases.

Paul Dudley White, M.D., of Boston, internationally known cardiologist, researcher, lecturer, and surgeon.

Nutrition for the Elderly

About 250,000 hot meals will be served at low cost five days a week under a national nutritional program for older Americans to be implemented in the coming fiscal year, HEW Secretary Elliot L. Richardson announced. He noted that the program, which will be administered by the Administration on Aging of HEW's Social and Rehabilitation Service, will offer several benefits to older persons.

"The program not only will improve the health of the elderly, but will do much to help end isolation of older people from community activities," the secretary said.

Mr. Richardson said that the nutrition program will provide opportunities for social contacts for older persons who eat together. It will also bring a daily visitor with home-delivered meals to older people who cannot leave their homes. Information and referral services, counseling, consumer education, and opportunities for recreation and volunteer services to others will be provided through the group meals program. The program will include efforts to inform isolated elderly persons of the program and give them an opportunity to participate. Transportation and escort services will be provided those who need them.

Commissioner John B. Martin of the Administration on Aging said, "This program is of enormous importance to the elderly of the nation and should go far toward reducing malnutrition and isolation. It is as much needed today by the elderly as the School Lunch Program is for children."

Under Public Law 92-258, signed by President Nixon on March 22, the program is authorized to begin July 1. The President, as part of his response to the White House Conference on Aging, has asked the Congress for the entire $100 million first-year appropriation authorized by the legislation. The $100 million for fiscal 1973 will provide funds for allocation to all states, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in amounts based on the proportion of their citizens aged 60 and over.

Individuals eligible to receive meals are "those persons aged 60 or over who cannot afford to eat adequately, lack the skills and knowledge to select and prepare nourishing and well-balanced meals, have limited mobility which may impair their capacity to shop and cook for themselves, or have feelings of rejection and loneliness which obliterate the incentive necessary to prepare and eat a meal alone." The spouses, of whatever age, of such individuals are also eligible. All participants in the program will be given an opportunity to pay all or part of the cost of the meals. No means tests will be made, and no one will be turned away for inability to pay for a meal. Federal funds made available under the Act will pay up to 90 percent of the administration and operation costs of the program.

Rehabilitation Engineering Centers

A major new effort to harness up-to-the minute engineering concepts to benefit the disabled has been announced by Secretary Richardson. He noted that as the President said in his March 2 Health Message to the Congress, "The skills that took us to the moon and back need to be put to work developing devices to help the blind see, the deaf hear and the crippled move."

Under the program, the Social and Rehabilitation Service will set up a national system of Rehabilitation Engineering Centers, with the total federal cost of the first year's operation estimated at $1.4 million. Engineers will work with medical doctors in treating patients with the most modern technology to rehabilitate the disabled. Many of the engineers have been associated with the U.S. defense and aerospace industries.

Secretary Richardson called the program a "coalition for positive action at the patient level. It is an alliance of medical expertise and space-age technology whose goal is to restore a wider world to the handicapped and disabled."

Examples of work by doctor-engineer teams in the Centers will include:

–Muscle substitutes (implanted synthetic tendons attached to muscles)

–Devices to stimulate arm and leg muscles (implanted dime-sized electronic systems that cause, by neuro-muscular means, artificial or paralyzed limbs to move at the wish of the user)

–Internal joint replacement (metal)

–Sensory aids (highly sophisticated cameras and electronic hearing devices) that allow the blind to "see" (silhouettes of pictures and large letters) and the deaf to "hear."

The first two Rehabilitation Engineering Centers will be at the Rancho Los Amigos Hospital, affiliated with the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, and at Moss Rehabilitation Hospital, affiliated with Temple University and Drexel University, Philadelphia. Each will receive $350,000 in federal funds the first year. Two or three additional Centers are expected to be established in different parts of the country within the next six months.

The Centers will concentrate on problem areas where unique capabilities have been demonstrated, such as a technique of giving a leg amputee an artificial leg immediately after surgery. To the patient, this can mean much less physical and psychological discomfort, shorter hospitalization, and a quicker return to the community and work. The Centers will also provide the environment for realistic testing concepts by moving devices and techniques through all phases of research development, including clinical evaluation, training of clinicians, and production.

The Public Health Service estimates that the number of persons in this country in need of physical restoration are: amputees, 350,000; paralyzed and deformed, 3,500,000; blind, 1,280,000; and deaf, 1,705,000.

The cost of providing physical restoration services now amounts to about $120 million a year. Of that amount, approximately $7 million goes for research and manpower development, according to statistics from government agencies supporting the work–HEW's Social and Rehabilitation Service, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, Office of Education, the Veterans Administration, and Department of Defense.

Educational Media Center

The Ohio State University Research Foundation has been awarded a $344,669 contract to establish and operate a National Center on Educational Media and Materials for the Handicapped, HEW's Office of Education has announced.

The Center will adapt new educational technology to programs for the handicapped. It will provide a setting for educators of the handicapped and instructional materials and techniques for the Office of Education's Bureau of Education for the Handicapped. The Center will also serve the educational technology needs of the Model Secondary School for the Deaf in Washington, D.C.

"The Center is expected to become a vital element in a wide range of Bureau of Education for the Handicapped programs designed to meet the instructional technology needs of handicapped children," said Dr. Edwin W. Martin, associate commissioner for Education for the Handicapped. "It will interlock with other bureau activities and will work closely with producers of prototype materials. These include Special Educational Instructional Materials Centers, Regional Media Centers for the Deaf, Research and Development Centers, Regional Resource Centers, and other related producers, to assure professional reproduction, marketing, and distribution of these materials. It also will serve as an intermediary between the professional educator and commerical producers and distributors of materials.

"Together, the National Center and regional centers create an interdependent, nationwide delivery system for the services legislated for handicapped children," Dr. Martin said.

The 15-month contract for establishment of the Center was awarded under the Education of the Handicapped Act. The project director is John C. Belland, associate professor of educational communications at Ohio State University.

No Welfare Citizenship Requirement

Proposed regulations that would prohibit states from denying public assistance to an otherwise eligible individual solely because he is not a citizen or because of his status as an alien were announced on June 16 by HEW's Social and Rehabilitation Service Administrator John D. Twiname. The regulations would apply to the public assistance programs under the Social Security Act.

The regulations are proposed to implement a Supreme Court decision of June 14, 1971, in which state statutes in Arizona and Pennysylvania were found to be in violation of the Equal Protection Clause and an encroachment of the exclusive federal power over the entrance and residence of aliens in the United States.

In addition to Arizona, five other states have citizenship requirements or require alien residence in the United States of 10 to 25 years in one or more of their federal-state public assistance programs. They are Colorado, Indiana, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Texas. In Pennsylvania, the requirement for citizenship or durational residence in the United States applies only to the state's general assistance program; however, federal funds are not involved in this program.

Washington Report is published bimonthly by the American Foundation for the Blind to report Congressional activity on legislation affecting blind persons and those who work with blind persons, as well as the action of the federal agencies administering related programs. AFB national headquarters are at 15 West 16th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011, (212) 924-0420. A local office is maintained at 1660 L Street, N.W., Suite 213, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 293-1870. All material appearing herein may be quoted in whole or in part provided credit is given the source:

WASHINGTON REPORT

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OCTOBER 1972

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND

IRVIN P. SCHLOSS - EDITOR

washington report

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

The 92d Congress reconvened September 5, following a recess which began August 21 for the Republican National Convention. With all of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate seats at stake on election day, November 6, members standing for re-election are faced with the need to complete essential legislation before adjourning and the equally compelling need to adjourn early enough to conduct a vigorous campaign.

Although another continuing resolution (P.L. 92-390) extends the authority for a number of programs which expired June 30 until September 30 and permits government agencies whose budgets for fiscal 1973 have not yet been approved to continue operating at the level of fiscal 1972 expenditures until September 30, it appears unlikely that Congressional action on all of this legislation can be completed by that date. Among the items still far from completion at press time in the middle of September are defense appropriations, the vetoed Labor-HEW appropriations bill, extension of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and the Older Americans Act, and social security and welfare reform. In addition, legislation to authorize the higher ceiling on the public debt beyond October 31 must be given priority consideration.

Speculation on the date Congress will adjourn in an election year has become a regular Washington game during the past ten years, with a variety of equally well-informed Capitol Hill opinions to choose from. A number of observers predict that Congress will recess by October 7 and return for a post-election session to complete unfinished business.

Head Start Earmark

Public Law 92-424, extending the Economic Opportunity Act for two years, was signed by President Nixon on September 19, 1972. Of particular interest to our field is the provision requiring that ten percent of the children served under the Head Start program must be handicapped children. In addition, the bill authorizes appropriations of $485 million for FY 1973 and $500 million for FY 1974 for Head Start. The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare is authorized to develop a graduated fee schedule for Head Start participation of children from families with annual incomes above $4,300.

In his remarks on the House floor explaining the intent of the section earmarking ten percent of Head Start enrollment slots for handicapped children, Rep. Albert Quie (R.-Minn.), ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor, said: "I want to emphasize that this provision means handicapped under the federal definition as defined in paragraph 1 of section 602 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and not merely individuals who have 'handicapping conditions.' Throughout the existence of the Head Start program, through its medical component, it has found thousands and thousands of children who have handicapping conditions such as visual problems which require eyeglasses or children with a slight hearing loss, speech disorders, or emotional problems. These children have been served under the Head Start programs and will and rightly should continue to be served under this program. It is now hoped that as a result of this amendment that Head Start will serve children who are totally blind, totally deaf, and severely physically and mentally handicapped.

"It has been said for years that a child who is poor is handicapped. I would add to that that a child who is poor and also severely handicapped is doubly handicapped and there can be no greater service than to help these youngsters to truly gain a headstart, giving them the opportunity to participate, to grow, and hopefully, benefit through this program."

He continued: "It is my hope that Head Start programs throughout the country will actively work with community based organizations for the handicapped as well as schools, universities, and agencies serving the handicapped in every

state in an effort to identify, recruit, and assist in helping to place handicapped children in local Head Start programs. I can see no circumstances under which a handicapped child should be denied entrance to a Head Start program if he is qualified and his parents want him to participate."

Labor-HEW Appropriation

The president on August 16 vetoed H.R. 15417, the bill making appropriations for FY 1973 for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education, and Welfare.

In his veto message, the President stated: "Exceeding my budget recommendations by $1.8 billion, this bill is a perfect example of that kind of reckless federal spending that just cannot be done without more taxes or more inflation, both of which I am determined to avoid. Moreover, the bill fails to include a limitation on federal matching payments for social services for public assistance recipients, although such a limitation was passed by the Senate. Because this is currently an open-ended program, this Congressional *inaction* could require a later supplemental reaching as high as $3.5 billion. By increasing the face amount of the bill on the one hand and failing to place a limitation on payments for social services on the other, the Congress has produced a budget overrun that could exceed $5 billion."

On September 19, 1972, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 16654, a new Labor-HEW appropriation bill designed to meet the President's criticism. The total amount of the House-passed bill is $835 million over what the President had recommended, but $1 billion less than the vetoed bill.

General Revenue-Sharing

The House of Representatives passed H.R. 14370, the General Revenue-Sharing Act, on June 23 and the Senate passed it on September 12, with modifications. The conférees are understood to have agreed to $5.3 billion for general revenue-sharing purposes and a ceiling of $2.5 billion on social services expenditures.

As passed by the Senate, the General Revenue-Sharing Act authorizes the establishment of a revenue-sharing trust fund from which allocations to states and local governments are to be made. The following amounts are to be available for each of the entitlement periods: $2.65 billion for January-June 1972, $5.45 billion for FY 1973, $5.75 billion for FY 1974, and $6.05 billion for FY 1975, $6.35 billion for FY 1976, and $3.32 billion for the July-December period of FY 1976.

In addition, the bill authorizes the expenditure of $1 billion a year beginning January 1, 1973, for supplementary grants to supplant existing grants to the states on an open-end basis for social services under the welfare provisions of the Social Security Act. These grants are to be allocated on the basis of one-third to the states and two-thirds to local governments based on urbanized population. Grants to the states for child care and family planning under Title IV of the Social Security Act will still be available on an open-end basis with a 75 percent federal share but with a limitation of 12.5 percent of the total allocation paid to any one of the states.

The regular revenue-sharing allocations are to be made on the basis of one-third to state governments and two-thirds to local governments. The allocations are to be based on a formula taking into account population, tax effort, and inverse relative per capita incomes. In contrast to the House-passed version of the bill, which requires that local governments must spend revenue-sharing funds for public safety, environmental and sanitary protections, and public transportation, the version reported by the Senate Committee leaves the uses of revenue-sharing funds to state and local governments. These funds may not be used to match federal funds for categorical grant-in-aid programs but they may be used to supplement such programs if state and local governments choose to do so.

Now that action by the Senate on H.R. 14370 is completed, the bill goes to conference between members of the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Ways and Means for differences in the House and Senate versions to be reconciled. It is likely that the bill will be sent to the President by September 30.

Older Americans Act

On July 17 the House of Representatives passed by H.R. 15657, the comprehensive Older Americans Services Amendments of 1972 extending and improving the provisions of the Older Americans Act, which expired June 30, 1972. The Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare had not completed action on this bill or similar legislation to extend the Act by press time in the middle of September.

H.R. 15657 makes comprehensive improvements in the Older Americans Act by substantially increasing funding, strengthening the state agencies on the aging, and strengthening the role of the commissioner on aging. It also amends other acts to provide additional resources to programs for older Americans.

The following is a summary of the major highlights of

H.R. 15657:

1. The purpose of the Act is to make available a full range of health, education, and social services to older people.

2. The commissioner on aging is made directly responsible to the secretary of HEW and is not authorized to delegate his functions under the Act without prior approval of the Congress.

3. The bill strengthens the role of the commissioner on aging in planning, developing, and coordinating all federal programs designed to serve older Americans.

4. The bill establishes in the Administration on Aging a National Information and Resource Center for the Aging to collect and disseminate authoritative information on problems of older persons and programs to assist them, with authorizations of appropriations of $750,000 for FY 1973 and such sums as may be necessary for FY 1974 and 1975.

5. The bill establishes a 15-member National Advisory Council on Aging to be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate which is charged with making studies and recommendations on ways to strengthen and improve programs for older Americans.

6. The secretary of HEW is authorized to use one percent of funds provided under the Act up to $1 million for evaluation of the effectiveness of programs provided for.

7. The bill authorizes advance funding of programs under the Act and continues existing provision for their joint funding.

8. The bill authorizes appropriations of $100 million for FY 1973, $200 million for FY 1974, and $300 million for FY 1975 for the commissioner to make grants to states for the administration of area plans by area agencies on aging and the development of comprehensive and coordinated systems for the delivery of social services. The formula for alloting funds to the states is based on the population aged 60 and over, with a minimum annual allotment of $250,000 to each state. The bill requires the designation of a sole state agency on aging to develop and administer the state plan. The state agency would be authorized to designate public or other nonprofit agencies within the state as area agencies on aging.

9. The state agency would be required to submit a state plan annually to the commissioner on aging. State plans would have to provide for evaluation of existing programs, objectives for improving services, and information resources readily accessible to older persons within the state. Authorizations of appropriations of $12 million for FY 1973, $15 million for FY 1974 and 1975 are provided for development and administration of state plans.

10. Appropriations of $20 million for FY 1973, $30 million for FY 1974, and $40 million for FY 1975 would be authorized for the commissioner to make grants to or contracts with public or other nonprofit agencies in a state for paying part or all of the cost of developing or operating statewide, regional, metropolitan area, county, city, or community model projects which will expand or improve social services or otherwise promote the well-being of older persons in the area.

11. The bill authorizes appropriations of $15 million for FY 1973, $20 million for FY 1974, and $25 million for FY 1975 for recruiting and training personnel needed in programs for the aging. It also authorizes $20 million for FY 1973, $30 million for FY 1974, and $40 million for FY 1975 for grants to or contracts with public or other nonprofit agencies or individuals for research and development projects to improve services to older persons and for establishing Multidisciplinary Centers of Gerontology for training of personnel and conducting research.

12. The commissioner would be authorized to make grants of up to 75 percent of the cost of establishing and operating Multipurpose Senior Centers. Appropriations of $35 million for FY 1973, 1974, and 1975 would be authorized for this purpose. The secretary would be authorized to establish a program of mortgage insurance covering 90 percent or a maximum of $250,000 for the cost of construction and equipment for Multipurpose Senior Centers. He would also be authorized to subsidize interest payments on loans for construction and equipment of these Centers. The aggregate amount for interest subsidization would not be permitted to exceed the amount appropriated for that purpose or $1 million in any year increased to $4 million for FY 1975 and $6 million for FY 1976. Appropriations for grants for initial staffing for a maximum period of three years are authorized in the amounts of $10 million for FY 1973 through FY 1975. The bill defines a multipurpose senior center to mean a community facility for the organization and provision of a broad spectrum of services, including provision of health, social, and educational services and provision of facilities for recreational activities for older persons.

13. The bill extends and improves the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and Foster Grandparent Program, with authorizations of appropriations of $20 million for FY 1973, $30 million for FY 1974, and $40 million for FY 1975 for the former and $35 million for FY 1973, $45 million for FY 1974, and $55 million for FY 1975 for the latter. The bill authorizes the director of ACTION rather than the secretary of HEW to make grants and contracts for these programs.

14. H.R. 15657 amends Title VII of the Older Americans Act (the newly-enacted nutrition for the elderly program in P.L. 92-258) to provide for closer interaction between it and the other programs for state and community

services to the elderly.

15. The bill establishes a new Title VIII to provide for special impact programs which are directed to the solution of critical problems confronting older persons in the areas of preretirement, housing, transportation, employment, and continuing education. Appropriations of $50 million for FY 1973, $75 million for FY 1974, and $100 million for FY 1975 would be authorized for these programs. The commissioner would be authorized to make grants to or contracts with public or nonprofit organizations to carry out these programs. Among the services covered would be payments to individuals to assist them in making alterations to their homes necessitated by disabling conditions and assistance in establishing transportation subsystems for individuals with mobility problems. The commissioner would be required to consult with state agencies on the aging before approving specific projects and to consult with other federal agencies which have related programs.

16. H.R. 15657 amends the Library Services and Construction Act by adding a new Title IV called Older Readers Services, with authorizations of appropriations of $11.7 million for FY 1973, $12.3 million for FY 1974, $12.9 million for FY 1975, and $13.7 million for FY 1976. Of special interest to blind persons is the authorized use of grants for projects of special library materials for the elderly, provision of in-home visits by librarians and other library personnel to the elderly, and the furnishing of transportation to enable the elderly to have access to library services. The federal share of grants to the states for library services to the elderly would be 100 percent of the cost.

The House Committee on Education and Labor estimates the cost of programs authorized by H.R. 15657 at $335.4 million for FY 1973, $510.3 million for FY 1974, $682.9 million for FY 1975, $18.7 million for FY 1976, and $5 million for FY 1977. (The Older Americans Act programs are extended and expanded through FY 1975. The low cost estimates for FY 1976 and 1977 cover amendments to the Library Services and Construction Act and the Higher Education Act only.)

Elimination of Barriers to Transportation

S. 3939, the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1972, which was passed by the Senate on September 19, 1972, requires that buses, shelters, loading platforms, and other facilities for public transportation other than rails covered by grants under the Act must be accessible to elderly and handicapped persons. Similar provisions appear in the Urban Mass Transportation Act.

Senator Jennings Randolph (D.–W.Va.) is chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Works, which processed the bill.

White House Conference on the Handicapped

S.J.Res. 202, a joint resolution authorizing the President to call a White House Conference on the Handicapped was reported by the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare on August 17 and was passed by the Senate on August 18. The resolution does the following:

1. Authorizes and requests the President to call a White House Conference on the Handicapped within two years of enactment of the resolution.
2. Requires the submission of a report to the President within 120 days after the conclusion of the Conference.
3. Requires the secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to plan and conduct the Conference and submit the recommendations of the Conference to the President and to the Congress within 90 days after he transmits the report of the Conference to the President.
4. Requires broad participation in the Conference, including handicapped individuals.
5. Requires the secretary of HEW to employ handicapped individuals in staff and other positions related to the Conference.
6. Authorizes the secretary to assist the states, including financial aid, to conduct preliminary conferences.
7. Directs the secretary to establish an Advisory Committee to the White House Conference on the Handicapped composed of 28 individuals of whom not less than ten shall be handicapped or parents of handicapped persons.
8. Authorizes an appropriation of $2 million to cover expenses related to the White House Conference and preliminary state conferences.

Vocational Rehabilitation Act

As this report was going to press, we received word that the Senate had passed H.R. 8395, the Rehabilitation Act Amendment of 1972. The Vocational Rehabilitation Act expired June 30 and has been operating on the basis of temporary continuing resolutions until final Congressional action on the new legislation could be completed.

The Senate substituted the provisions of its bill, S. 3987, for those of H.R. 8395. The Senate amendments include most of the provisions of S. 1030 authorizing rehabilitation services for older blind persons and a modified version of S. 2506 improving the Randolph-Sheppard Act. Details of this important bill, now in conference with the House, will be presented in the next issue.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH NEWS

Appointments and Resignations

The President has nominated Sidney P. Marland, Jr., of New York, to be assistant secretary for education, in charge of the Education Division in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. This is a new position established by P.L. 92-318 of June 23, 1972. Dr. Marland has served as commissioner of education since December 1970.

Before assuming his post with the Department, Dr. Marland served as president of the Institute for Educational Development in New York City for two years. From 1948 to 1956 he was superintendent of schools in Darien, Connecticut; and from 1956 to 1963 he was superintendent of schools in Winnetka, Illinois. He held that same position in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from 1963 to 1968.

Dr. Marland, 58, received his A.B. degree in 1936 and M.A. degree in 1950 from the University of Connecticut. He obtained a Ph.D. degree in 1955 form New York University. From 1941 to 1947, Dr. Marland served in the U.S. Army, rising to the grade of colonel. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Legion of Merit, and Bronze Star Medal for World War II service in the Pacific.

HEW Secretary Elliot L. Richardson has named Emerson J. Elliott, 38, a career federal service executive as acting director of the new National Institute of Education. Prior to his appointment as acting NIE director, Elliott served as deputy chief of the Human Resources Program Division in the Office of Management and Budget.

The Institute, established under the Education Amendments of 1972, P.L. 92-318, was first proposed by President Nixon in his message on educational reform in March 1970.

"As a first step toward reform, we need a coherent approach to research and experimentation," the President said.

The Institute will be one of two units in a new HEW Division of Education. The other will be the Office of Education. The Division will be headed by an assistant secretary for education.

A graduate of Albion College, with a master's degree from the University of Michigan, Elliott joined the old Bureau of the Budget in 1960.

Dr. Edward Zigler, director of the Office of Child Development in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, resigned from his post effective July 31 to return to Yale University. He had served as director of the OCD for two years.

Dr. James A. Bax, commissioner of the Community Services Administration in the Social and Rehabilitation Service, has resigned to accept a new job as administrator of the Idaho Department of Environmental Protection and Health in Boise.

Child Development Associate

Initiation of a new profession for individuals interested in working with and caring for young children has been announced by the Office of Child Development in HEW.

The new profession, to be known as child development associate, will be launched with an initial grant of $802,000 from OCD to a consortium made up of individuals and representatives of national organizations whose main concern is quality education for young children. The consortium was initiated by a planning group consisting of representatives from the American Association of Elementary Kindergarten-Nursery Educators, Association for Childhood Education International, and National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The consortium will have two major areas of responsibility: (1) developing and implementing a means of assessing the competence of a CDA candidate: and (2) issuing the final credential to qualified CDA's.

The competencies, drawn up by OCD, have been tentatively approved by leaders in the field of early childhood education, and will be the foundation for all training and assessment procedures. These competencies include the ability to support and encourage the child's general social, emotional, and intellectual development; the ability to stimulate the child's language development; and an understanding of a child's health, education, and social needs.

Training of CDA's will begin this autumn under OCD's auspices, in approximately ten pilot projects throughout the country. Training guidelines will be developed for use in other early childhood programs. Training will involve a substantial amount of on-the-job experience.

After receiving the credential, the CDA will be qualified to work in a professional capacity in day care centers, Head Start programs, nursery schools, and other preschool programs. The length of time required to educate an individual to be a CDA will vary. Persons with previous experience may need only short-term training, while others who enter the field without previous experience may need more extensive training. The opportunity to become a CDA will also be available to child care workers and professionals in related fields who wish to be certified to work with young children.

The development of this new cadre of professional care-givers will upgrade the quality of programs for children by increasing staff skills; increase the supply of adequately trained child development personnel for child care programs; and establish the child care-giver as a recognized and vital resource within the field of human service occupations.

New Study on "Labeling" Children

The launching of a project to study systems of classifying children and inappropriate labeling of children as delinquents, retarded, emotionally disturbed, and other classifications having potentially harmful and permanent consequences for the child, has been announced by HEW Secretary Elliot L. Richardson.

"While diagnosis and classification are essential to provide adequate services, some labeling practices represent a serious national problem," Secretary Richardson said. "Early in life, a child could be mistakenly classified as mentally retarded when, in fact, he is suffering from a hearing disability.

"We need to know far more than we do about the manner in which such labels are imposed, what circumstances lead a child into categorization, who makes the and how to achieve better diagnostic and clas systems."

The project will be headed by Dr. Nicholas Hobbs, provost of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. Project studies will be under the joint sponsorship of five HEW agencies: the Office of Child Development; the Office of Education (Bureau of Education for the Handicapped); Social and Rehabilitation Service; Health Services and Mental Health Administration (National Institute of Mental Health); and the National Institutes of Health (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development).

An operating grant of $369,482 has been funded in equal parts by the five agencies, for an 18-month period.

Dr. Hobbs said, "We will make recommendations for public policy in three problem areas. We will study the technical adequacy of diagnostic and classification systems with a view to increasing accord and uniformity of use. We will also study the effects of labeling on individual children with a view to developing policies and procedures to minimize ill effects. And we will study the social, legal, and ethical implications of classifying and labeling children with a view to achieving a sensible balance between individual rights and the common good."

Dr. Hobbs will select a group of approximately nine people to work on the project. These will include experts in the fields of mental retardation, special education, emotional disturbance, delinquency or anti-social behavior, minimal brain dysfunction, learning disabilities, and other handicapping conditions. The group will maintain liaison th the funding agencies, and with the President's Com-ittee on Mental Retardation, the Office of Mental Retardation Coordination, and the Department of Justice, as well as with the major professional associations concerned with children. Dr. Edward Martin of the Office of Education and Dr. Frederick Green of the Office of Child Development will serve as co-chairmen of a federal inter-agency task force.

Within 18 months of the start of the project, the group anticipates publishing its findings in book form for wide distribution. The report is expected to contain specific and practical recommendations that can be carried out by appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, by schools and courts, and by professional and voluntary organizations.

Washington Report is published bimonthly by the American Foundation for the Blind to report Congressional activity on legislation affecting blind persons and those who work with blind persons, as well as the action of the federal agencies administering related programs. AFB national headquarters are at 15 West 16th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011, (212) 924-0420. A local office is maintained at 1660 L Street, N.W., Suite 213, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 293-1870. All material appearing herein may be quoted in whole or in part provided credit is given the source.

WASHINGTON REPORT

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DECEMBER 1972

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND

washington report

IRVIN P. SCHLOSS, EDITOR

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

The 92nd Congress adjourned October 18, after completing action during the last two weeks on most of the bills of special interest to readers. These included the Social Security Amendments of 1972, minus the controversial family assistance plan designed to reform the aid to families with dependent children welfare provisions, the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972 (revenue sharing), the Rehabilitation Act of 1972, the Older Americans Comprehensive Service Amendments of 1972, and the revised Labor HEW appropriations bill for FY 1973.

The President's veto of the last three bills will make it necessary for the 93rd Congress, which convenes January 3, 1973, to reenact similar bills, undoubtedly taking into account some of the President's objections. Since it will be March before the new Congress is fully organized, extensions of the vocational rehabilitation program and Older Americans Act will not be sent to the President until the spring. In the meantime, a continuing resolution authorizes operation of these programs.

Social Security and Welfare

The President signed H.R. 1, the Social Security Amendments of 1972, on October 30 as Public Law 92-603. The new law liberalizes cash benefits for widows and widowers, for disability insurance beneficiaries who are blind, and for special groups who have long coverage at low wages. It also covers disability insurance beneficiaries for medicare and federalizes the adult public assistance categories, with increases in cash welfare payments.

The new law makes the following improvements of special interest:

1. Establishes a minimum benefit of $170 a month for individuals who have worked for 30 years in covered employment, effective 1973.

2. Entitles widows and dependent widowers to receive at age 65 the full amount of the benefit the deceased spouse was entitled to receive at age 65, with benefits actuarially reduced for widows and dependent widowers who elect to receive them between the ages of 60 and 65. This benefit becomes effective January 1, 1972.

3. Authorizes increased benefits of 1 percent for each year an individual delays retirement after age 65, effective for years after 1973.

4. Liberalizes computation of retirement benefits for men.

5. Liberalizes the retirement test to allow annual earnings of $2,100 for retired individuals under age 72 without any loss of cash benefits and with a reduction of $1 in cash benefits for every $2 of earnings over that amount, effective January 1, 1973.

6. Effective January 1973, authorizes payment of childhood disability benefits to a disabled child of an insured retired, deceased, or disabled worker if a child's disability began before age 22 and permits reinstatement to childhood disability rolls in the event a disability recurs within seven years after termination of benefits.

7. Reduces the waiting period for collection of cash disability benefits from six months to five months, effective January 1, 1973.

8. Removes the requirement of 20 quarters in employment covered by Social Security out of the 40 quarters preceding the onset of disability as a criterion of eligibility for cash disability insurance benefits for individuals whose blindness is within the legal definition, effective January 1, 1973. Thus, the criterion of eligibility for these individuals would be fully insured status, which varies from a minimum of six quarters in covered employment to 40 quarters, depending on the individual's work record. Inability to work would still govern eligibility for cash benefits.

9. Effective for deaths occurring after 1969, makes survivors of disabled workers eligible for unapplied-for disability insurance cash benefits if they apply within three

months of the worker's death (or three months after October 30, 1972, for deaths prior to enactment of this law).

10. Liberalizes computation of disability insurance payments to individuals eligible for workmen's compensation, effective January 1, 1973.

11. Increases the amount of social security trust fund money which can be used to pay for rehabilitation of disability insurance beneficiaries from 1 percent of the preceding year's disability benefits to 1¼ percent for FY 1973 and to 1.5 percent for FY 1974 and succeeding years.

12. Provides that payments made by an employer to a former disabled employee will not be counted for social security benefit or tax purposes if the payment is made after the calendar year in which the former employee became entitled to a social security disability insurance benefit.

13. Effective July 1, 1963, covers for medicare benefits disability insurance beneficiaries of any age; disabled widows, dependent widowers, and surviving divorced wives between the ages of 50 and 65; and childhood disability beneficiaries over age 18. Entitlement to cash disability benefits for two years will be a prerequisite for medicare coverage for these individuals.

14. Effective July 1, 1973, permits individuals age 65 and older who are not entitled to basic Part A in-hospital benefits under medicare to buy this coverage, provided they also purchase Part B coverage for supplementary medical insurance. The current initial premium cost will be $33 a month for Part A benefits.

15. Provides for automatic enrollment for Part B supplementary medical insurance for individuals eligible for Part A benefits, effective July 1, 1973. However, enrollment for Part B benefits will still be optional.

16. Requires states to charge monthly premiums for medicaid benefits for the medically indigent and authorizes the states to impose deductibles and coinsurance payments for optional services received by the medically indigent under medicaid, effective January 1, 1973.

17. Requires states to reimburse optometrists for services provided under medicaid if state medicaid plans authorize coverage for eye care services.

18. Provides that individuals eligible for medicaid in September 1972 will not lose entitlement owing to the 20 percent social security cash payment increase until October 1973.

19. Authorizes optometrists to attest to a patient's need for prosthetic lenses under medicare.

20. Effective July 1, 1973, authorizes coverage of chiropractic services involving manipulation of the spine under medicare and medicaid.

21. Provides for appointment of the administrator of the Social and Rehabilitation Service by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

22. Effective July 1, 1974, provides for reduction of the aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) federal share by 1 percent to states which fail to conform, refer, and arrange for health screening services and follow-up treatment of children on AFDC rolls.

23. Effective January 1, 1973, eliminates coinsurance payments for home health services under Part B of medicare.

24. Provides that fully or currently insured workers and their dependents with chronic renal disease will be eligible for coverage under medicare three months after the course of renal dialysis is initiated.

25. Effective January 1, 1974, supplants existing grant-in-aid welfare programs of old age assistance, aid to the blind, and aid to the permanently, totally disabled with a completely federal financial assistance program (supplemental security income program). Details are given below.

26. Exempts states from mandatory medicaid coverage of newly eligible recipients of Federal Supplemental Security Income payments.

27. Authorizes continued provision by the states of social services to participants in the new federal assistance program on the 75 percent federal share basis subject to the ceiling in the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act. (See article on revenue sharing below.)

28. Requires a "passalong" (net increase) of $8 monthly to individuals receiving both social security cash benefits and welfare payments as a result of the 20 percent increase in social security payments until January 1, 1974. Many states offset increases in social security payments by decreases in welfare payments, so that individuals requiring welfare supplementation of social security payments do not receive any increase except for "passalong" provisions.

One of the major improvements made by P.L. 92-603 is federalization of the three adult public assistance categories (old age assistance, aid to the blind, and aid to the permanently and totally disabled) effective January 1, 1974. The new law amends Title XVI of the Social Security Act to establish the supplemental security income plan for the aged, blind, and disabled. Under the law, aged, blind, and disabled persons with no other income would be granted a monthly income of at least $130 for an individual or $195 for an eligible couple. An eligible spouse of an eligible individual must also be 65, blind, or disabled.

In addition, the bill would provide that the first $20 of social security or any other income would not cause any

reduction in supplemental security income payments. As a result, aged, blind, and disabled persons who have monthly income of at least $20 from social security or other sources (which are not need-related) would be assured total monthly income of at least $150 for an individual or $215 for a couple.

There will also be an additional disregard of $65 of monthly earned income, plus half of any earnings above $65. This will enable those aged, blind, and disabled individuals who are so able to do some work and in the process, give them a higher income in addition to supplemental security income. Any income necessary for the fulfillment of a plan for achieving self-support will be disregarded for persons qualifying on the basis of blindness. A savings clause will assure that blind persons will not receive any reduction in benefits due to these provisions.

Under present law each state is free to prescribe its own definition of blindness and disability for purposes of eligibility for aid to the blind and aid to the permanently and totally disabled. Under the new supplemental security income program, there will be a uniform federal definition of "disability" and "blindness."

The standard legal definition of blindness will be used as the criterion for blind recipients. The term "disability" will be defined as "inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.

A blind or disabled person who was on the rolls in December 1973 and met the state definition for blindness or disability as defined in the state plan in effect October 1972 will be considered blind or disabled for purposes of this title so long as he continues to be blind or disabled.

Eligibility for supplemental security income will be open to an aged, blind, or disabled individual if his resources are less than $1,500 (or $2,250 for a couple). In determining the amount of his resources, the value of the home (including land surrounding home), household goods, personal effects (including an automobile), and property needed for self-support will, if found to be reasonable, be excluded. Life insurance policies will not be counted if the face value of all policies is less than $1,500. Current recipients under state programs with higher resource limits will retain their eligibility.

States wishing to pay an aged, blind, or disabled person amounts in addition to the federal supplemental security income payment will be free to do so. The bill will permit states to enter into agreements for federal administration of state supplemental benefits. Under these agreements supplemental payments will have to be made to all persons eligible for federal supplemental security income payments, except that a state can require a period of residence in the state as a condition of eligibility.

Individuals in the Supplemental Security Income program will not be eligible for food stamps or surplus commodities.

The law includes no direct federal participation in the costs of state supplemental payments. However, a savings clause is included, under which the federal government will assume all of a state's costs of supplemental payments which exceed its calendar year 1972 share of the costs of aid to the aged, blind, and disabled. This savings clause will apply only to state supplementation needed to maintain the state's assistance levels in effect as of January 1972. The savings clause will, however, also cover an upward adjustment over the January levels to the extent necessary to offset the elimination of food stamp eligibility.

The new law requires every blind or disabled supplemental security income recipient to be referred for vocational rehabilitation services, with the full cost of these services to be paid for from open-end Title XVI funds.

Another major improvement made by P.L. 92-603 is the liberalization of disability insurance provisions for blind persons mentioned in No. 8 above. As a result of this liberalization, blind individuals who were denied disability insurance cash benefits on the basis that they did not have 20 quarters in covered employment before the onset of disability should apply to their nearest social security district office. They may now be eligible for cash benefits under the new provision.

Revenue Sharing

On October 20 the President signed H.R. 14370, the so-called "revenue sharing bill," into law as Public Law 92-512. Title I of the law, the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972, establishes a trust fund in the U.S. Treasury from which allocations are to be made to state and local governments during entitlement periods beginning January 1, 1972 and ending December 31, 1976. State governments will receive 1/3 of the allocations in each entitlement period, while units of local government will receive 2/3 of the allocations.

The law appropriates the following amounts for each of the entitlement periods indicated:

January 1–June 30, 1972 . . . .$2.65 billion
July 1–December 31, 1972 . . . . 2.65 billion
July 1–June 30, 1973 . . . . 2.99 billion

July 1, 1973–July 1, 1974	6.05 billion
July 1, 1974–July 1, 1975	6.20 billion
July 1, 1975–July 1, 1976	6.35 billion
July 1–December 31, 1976	3.32 billion

In addition, $2.39 million for each of the six months' entitlement periods and $4.78 million for each of the full year's entitlement periods are appropriated for allocations to noncontiguous states for special adjustments.

State governments may use their share of the allocations for unspecified purposes. However, units of local government must give priority to expenditures for public safety, environmental protection, public transportation, health, recreation, libraries, social services for the poor or aged, and financial administration, as well as ordinary and necessary capital expenditures authorized by law.

The allocations are to be based on a formula taking into account population, tax effort, and inverse relative *per capita* incomes. Funds received by states and units of local governments under this law cannot be used to match federal funds for other program purposes.

Title II, "Federal State Tax Collection Act of 1972," establishes the mechanism by which states may arrange for collection of state income tax by the federal government.

Title III of P.L. 92-512 amends appropriate sections of the Social Security Act to establish an annual ceiling of $2.5 billion on social services, with allocations to states based on population. The law requires that 90 percent of allocations to states for social services must be spent on services to recipients of or applicants for public assistance. Child care, family planning, services provided to a mentally retarded individual, services related to the treatment of drug addicts and alcoholics, and services provided to a child in foster care can be provided to persons formerly on welfare or likely to become dependent on welfare as well as present recipients of welfare without regard to the 90 percent limitation. Until a state reaches the limitation on federal matching, 75 percent federal matching continues to be applicable for social services as under present law.

The new law also provides for 50 percent federal matching funds for emergency social services on an open-end funding basis. In addition, a 90 percent federal share is provided for the work incentive program, which has a separate authorization of appropriations.

Vocational Rehabilitation

The President failed to sign H.R. 8395, the Rehabilitation Act of 1972, which reached his desk after the 92nd Congress adjourned. In his Memorandum of Disapproval issued October 27, he stated:

> This measure would seriously jeopardize the goals of the vocational rehabilitation program and is another example of Congressional fiscal irresponsibility. Its provisions would divert this program from its basic vocational objectives into activities that have no vocational element whatsoever or are essentially medical in character. In addition, it would proliferate a host of narrow categorical programs which duplicate and overlap existing authorities and programs. Such provisions serve only to dilute the resources of the vocational rehabilitation program and impair its continued valuable achievements in restoring deserving American citizens to meaningful employment.
>
> H.R. 8395 also would create organizational rigidities in the vocational rehabilitation program which would undermine the ability of the Secretary of HEW to manage the program effectively. The bill also would establish numerous committees and independent commissions which are unnecessary, would waste the taxpayers' dollars, and would complicate and confuse the direction of this program. Finally, the bill would authorize funding far in excess of the budget request and far beyond what can be made available and used effectively.

H.R. 8395 supplanted the existing Vocational Rehabilitation Act and provided for substantially improved services to the severely handicapped. In addition to increasing the authorization of appropriations for the basic grants to the states program, the bill established a target program of grants to states for rehabilitation services for older blind persons, defined as blind individuals 55 and over. The bill also amended the authorization of appropriations for the National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults to specifically provide $5 million for construction and $800,000 for operation during FY 1973, $1,200,000 for operation in FY 1974, and $2 million for operation in FY 1975. Other special groups for whom target programs would have been established by H.R. 8395 are the deaf, the spinal cord injured, and individuals suffering end-stage renal disease.

H.R. 8395 would have statutorily established the Rehabilitation Services Administration as a constituent agency of the Department of HEW, with the commissioner of rehabilitation reporting directly to the secretary. It would also have established an Office for the Handicapped in the office of the secretary of HEW to evaluate the effectiveness of programs serving handicapped individuals, encourage coordinated planning of such services, and serve as an information and referral resource on programs operated by all levels of government as well as private organizations on behalf of handicapped persons. In addition, the bill would have established a Federal Interagency Committee on Handicapped Employees, a National Commission on Trans-

portation and Housing for Handicapped Individuals, and an Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

One of the most far-reaching provisions of H.R. 8395 is the prohibition of discrimination against handicapped individuals on account of their handicap in any federally-assisted program. Section 705 of the bill states: "No otherwise qualified handicapped individual in the United States, as defined in section 7(7), shall, solely by reason of his handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

As passed by the Senate, H.R. 8395 would have made improvements in the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Stand Act for the blind by including modified provisions of S. 2506. In conference with members of the House of Representatives to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill, these provisions were eliminated on the basis that House rules prevented non-germane amendments. The conference report states:

> The conference report does not include title VII from the Senate amendment relating to the Randolph-Sheppard Act for the blind. Under the Rules of the House of Representatives, and pursuant to the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, such title would not be considered germane and would thus be subject to a point of order in the House.
>
> The conferees stress that exclusion of title VII is not due to any lack of concern for, or disregard of the need for, strong and forward-looking amendments to the Randolph-Sheppard Act. The conferees expect that both committees will consider these matters in depth after the 93rd Congress convenes.
>
> The conferees are deeply concerned that the Congress has not been able to obtain any definitive information concerning legitimate uses of vending machine income on federally-controlled property. In view of this concern, the conferees urge that the General Accounting Office conclude, at the earliest possible date, its audit and study of such funds and their legitimate uses made pursuant to resolution of the Subcommittee on the Handicapped of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare; and that any recommendations of the General Accounting Office include recommendations with respect to procedures to insure full public disclosure and accountability with respect to the use of such funds.

Since H.R. 8395 had bipartisan congressional support as well as the support of concerned constituent groups of handicapped individuals and agencies serving them, it is expected that both the House Committee on Education and Labor and the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare will take action early in the 93rd Congress to see that a substantially similar bill is passed by the Congress and sent to the President. It is likely that some modifications will be made to meet some of the President's objections to H.R. 8395.

Legislation on the Aging

The President also withheld his approval from H.R. 15657, the Older Americans Comprehensive Service Amendments of 1972, and H.R. 14424, Research on Aging Act of 1972. In his Memorandum of Disapproval on these two bills issued October 30, he stated:

> Although I support some of the goals of these two bills, careful review has persuaded me that neither bill provides the best means of achieving these goals. Both authorize unbudgeted and excessive expenditures and would also require duplications or fragmentations of effort which would actually impair our efforts to serve older Americans more effectively. I have decided therefore to withhold my approval from these two pieces of legislation.
>
> Last March, I submitted to the Congress a plan for strengthening and expanding service delivery programs under the Older Americans Act. This program would begin the development of more comprehensive and better coordinated systems for delivering services at the local level. In addition, I submitted a proposal to broaden the highly successful Foster Grandparents Program. The Administration will continue its vigorous pursuit of both these objectives.
>
> However, the Congress added to the bill containing these provisions a range of narrow, categorical service programs which would seriously interfere with our effort to develop coordinated services for older persons. This is particularly the case with two categorical manpower programs which were added on the floor of the Senate and were considered without regard to manpower programs already serving older persons. Furthermore, this bill would authorize new funding of more than $2 billion between now and fiscal year 1975—far beyond what can be used effectively and responsibly.
>
> I cannot responsibly approve H.R. 15657.
>
> In my Special Message to the Congress on Older Americans last March, I also emphasized the need to develop a comprehensive, coordinated program of aging research—one which includes disciplines ranging from biomedical research to transportation systems analysis, from psychology and sociology to management science and economics. The secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare has since appointed a new Technical Advisory Committee for Aging Research to develop a plan for bringing together all the resources available to the federal government in the aging research field.
>
> H.R. 14424, however, would set up an entirely separate aging research institute that would duplicate these activities. This bill would create additional administrative costs without enhancing the conduct of biomedical research for the aging. In fact, it could even fragment existing research efforts. This bill also contains a new grant program for mental health facilities for the aging which duplicates the more general and flexible authorities contained in the Community Mental Health Centers Act. In sum, I feel that both research and mental health programs for the aging should be carried out in the broader context of research on life-span processes and comprehensive mental health treatment programs now under way.

H.R. 14424 would not enhance and could inhibit federal efforts to respond to the needs of the elderly, and I cannot give it my approval.

H.R. 15657 would have made major improvements in the financing of programs under the Older Americans Act, which, except for the new nutrition services for the elderly, has insignificant funding authorizations. In particular, the bill would have permitted meaningful development and expansion of state and local services for older persons and would have strengthened federal-level activities by housing the Administration on Aging in the Office of the secretary of HEW and by creating a Federal Council on the Aging whose members would be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Of special interest to readers were provisions authorizing the commissioner on aging to make grants to public or private nonprofit agencies as well as contracts with agencies or organizations to provide services to assist in meeting the particular needs of physically and mentally impaired older persons, including special transportation and escort services; homemaker, home health, and shopping services; reader services; letter writing services; and other services designed to assist such individuals in leading a more independent life.

The 93rd Congress is expected to reenact substantially similar legislation with some modifications to meet the objections of the President.

Labor-HEW Appropriations

For the second time, the President has vetoed legislation making appropriations for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education, and Welfare for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1973. As a result, programs covered by this bill will be financed under the authority of a continuing resolution at the same level as last fiscal year until the 93rd Congress has an opportunity to enact a new bill.

In his Memorandum of Disapproval dated October 27, the President said:

This is the second time I have vetoed inflated appropriations this year for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. This amounts to a textbook example of the seeming inability or unwillingness of the Congress to follow a prudent and responsibile spending policy. In my budget for fiscal year 1973, I requested that the Congress provide an increase of $2.1 billion over fiscal 1972 funds for the HEW program contained in this bill. On top of that generous increase—which would have provided substantial expansion while recognizing competing priorities in other program areas—the Congress amassed a budget-breaking additional increase of $1.8 billion. I vetoed this in August because it was clearly excessive and unwarranted.

The bill now before me contains the same face amount as the measure I previously vetoed. In a partial concession to that veto, however, H.R. 16654 contains authority for the over-spending to be held to $535 million—a result that would still amount to pressure for higher taxes.

This Administration is second to none in its demonstrated concern and clear accomplishments in health, education, and manpower matters. My budget represented a balanced and rational approach to the funding of many high priority domestic programs in a time of tight budget resources, while continuing this Administration's shift of priorities and funds toward the human resources activities of the government.

H.R. 16654 is as unwarranted as the version I vetoed last August.

P.L. 92-607, the law making supplemental appropriations for FY 1973, contains an earmarked appropriation of $5 million for construction of the National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults. However, since this appropriation is related to the Rehabilitation Act of 1972 (H.R. 8395), which the President vetoed, it is not operable until the 93rd Congress takes additional action.

Small Business Loans

P.L. 92-595, the Small Business Investment Act Amendments of 1972, contains provisions authorizing Small Business Administration loans to nonprofit workshops for the handicapped and to handicapped individuals establishing small businesses. These provisions were originally introduced in bill form by Senator Jacob K. Javits (R.–N.Y.) and Rep. Gilbert Gude (R.–Md.). The provisions of Congressman Gude's version of the bill were added as a committee amendment on the floor of the House of Representatives when the legislation was passed.

The new provisions authorize the SBA to make loans directly or in cooperation with banks or other lending institutions to any public or private nonprofit organizations operated in the interest of handicapped individuals, provided such organizations observe applicable occupational health and safety standards prescribed by the secretary of Labor and that they employ handicapped individuals for not less than 75 percent of the man-hours required in the production of commodities or services during any fiscal year. Loans under the Small Business Act for this purpose are limited to a maximum of $350,000 at interest of 3 percent per annum up to 15 years, including extensions and renewals.

These same provisions may be used to assist any handicapped individual in establishing, acquiring, or operating a small business concern. A handicapped individual is

defined in the Act as a person who has a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, defect, ailment, disease, or disability of a permanent nature, which in any way limits the selection of any type of employment for which the person would otherwise be qualified or qualifiable.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH NEWS

Appointments

A totally blinded veteran of World War II, Thomas K. Richards, 57, of Irvington-on-the-Hudson, New York, has been appointed by the President to the Committee for Purchase of Products and Services of the Blind and Other Severely Handicapped. The committee is the governing board which establishes the fair market value of commodities and services of the blind and other severely handicapped under the Javits-Wagner O'Day Act (P.L. 92-28).

Mr. Richards is employed by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company at the home office in New York City as supervisor, Personnel Administration, Company Property Management. In this capacity, he has responsibility for some 1,600 maintenance personnel in Metropolitan Life Insurance Company buildings throughout the country.

Mr. Richards served in the Signal Corps during World War II and was blinded in combat in March, 1945. He was separated from the U.S. Army in 1948 with the rank of captain.

He has a B.S. degree in personnel administration from Columbia University and has completed work toward a master's degree in business administration at New York University. He was employed by Metropolitan Life as a personnel interviewer in July, 1948 and has held progressively more responsible positions since then. Mr. Richards is married and has four children.

Joint Program for Children

A new partnership-for-children between local Head Start Programs and Community Mental Health Centers has been announced by HEW's Office of Child Development and the National Institute of Mental Health. The two agencies promised new collaborative efforts to improve the quality of mental health preventive, diagnostic, and treatment services for Head Start children and their families.

The OCD-NIMH effort is a first important step toward integrating all existing HEW resources for the sake of emotionally disturbed, mentally retarded, and physically handicapped Head Start children and their families. Head Start is a comprehensive child development program designed for preschool children from low-income families. The psychological well-being of children and their families is only one of several essential elements of the Head Start program which also includes physical health, nutrition, and education. Currently, there are 291,000 children enrolled in full-year Head Start programs in some 2,000 U.S. communities. Many of these programs could benefit from additional psychological and social services.

Community Mental Health Centers serve and treat persons of all ages and socio-economic classes in their home communities. To date, over 450 centers have been funded, and over 320 are operational. These centers can be found in all states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.

OCD and NIMH already have plans to identify the most promising of the newly initiated collaborative programs and to monitor their progress. In this way, they can learn which are best suited to the needs of their communities and which can serve as models for other communities.

Vocational Rehabilitation Closures

A record 326,138 disabled Americans were rehabilitated to productive activities during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1972, according to HEW's Social and Rehabilitation Service.

The 1972 figure, up 12 percent over the 291,272 figure recorded for FY 1971, is the highest yearly total ever reached since the federal-state vocational rehabilitation program began in 1920.

Edward Newman, commissioner of SRS's Rehabilitation Services Administration, noted that "over three million disabled men, women, and youths have returned to productive employment since the Vocational Rehabilitation Act became law on June 2, 1920."

"Of our total rehabilitations for the past fiscal year, 51,084 were public assistance recipients at some time during the vocational rehabilitation process," he said. "This is 27 percent above the 40,321 for FY 1971."

Commissioner Newman attributed the increase to priority attention given to problems of dependent and disabled people during the past 12 months.

Those qualifying for rehabilitation services in FY 72 were persons with mental or physical impairments that interfered with finding or holding a job.

Services available to them included testing and evaluation; guidance and counseling; academic, vocational, and job training; medical and hospital care; artificial limbs and prosthetic aids; job placement; and related services.

Under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, federal grants covering 80 percent of total operating costs are provided to state rehabilitation agencies. Public and private nonprofit

groups serving the handicapped also receive support.

Since the General Accounting Office has questioned the validity of RSA statistics on vocational rehabilitation closures, the vetoed Rehabilitation Act of 1972, H.R. 8395, would have required more detailed statistical reporting to emphasize differentiation between the various types of closures, such as rehabilitations achieved by physical restoration procedures, rehabilitation of disabled housewives who function as homemakers, and rehabilitation of severely handicapped individuals.

Washington Report is published bimonthly by the American Foundation for the Blind to report Congressional activity on legislation affecting blind persons and those who work with blind persons, as well as the action of the federal agencies administering related programs. AFB national headquarters are at 15 West 16th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011, (212) 924-0420. A local office is maintained at 1660 L Street, N.W., Suite 213, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 293-1870. All material appearing herein may be quoted in whole or in part provided credit is given the source.

WASHINGTON REPORT

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